

STAR WARS[®]

SHADOWS OF THE EMPIRE[™]



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STAR WARS® **SHADOWS OF THE EMPIRE™**

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inker

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colorist

Cary Porter

letterer

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cover art

Christopher Moeller

introduction by

Steve Perry



DARK HORSE COMICS®

INTRODUCTION

Everything but the movie.

From the beginning, that was the plan for the multimedia project *Shadows of the Empire*. There was to be a novel, comics, a video game, a roleplaying game, trading cards, a soundtrack, toy figurines, vinyl dolls, swoops, spaceships — you name it. Everything connected with the release of a major motion picture — *except* the movie itself.

For Lucasfilm, it was the tie-in event of 1996, beginning with the release of the novel and comics in the spring, followed by the other licensees to the end of the year and beyond. Some of the stuff in the Special Edition theatrical release of *Star Wars* was even previewed first in *Shadows*, from the swoop bikes to the Asp droid.

Those of you who find the genesis and progress of such a project interesting should pick up a copy of Mark Cotta Vaz's excellent book, *The Secrets of Star Wars: Shadows of the Empire*, a thick trade paperback that explains in detail the goings-on. (In case you are wondering, no, I don't get a piece of Mark's royalties. But it's fascinating stuff, and you should rush right out and get a copy. Make him happy.)

Which brings us to the questions: Who am I, and why am I blathering on here?

Well, I'm the guy who got to go inside Darth Vader's head and return to share his thoughts with you; the writer who got to flesh out Xizor, the brooding and dangerous Dark Prince; and the man who got to undress Princess Leia. Three things I enjoyed thoroughly and three things which have gotten me cheered — or now and then, booed — by *Star Wars* fans. See, I got to write the novel for *Shadows of the Empire*, which was the main story line upon which everything else that came later was based. Including the comics collection you are about to read.

Shadows is set between the movies, *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi*, relatively virgin territory insofar as previous *Star Wars* material goes. In this tale, we get to see the inner workings of Black Sun, the largest criminal syndicate in the galaxy. There are new villains, some new heroes, and most of the regular gang we learned to love and hate in the movies: Luke, Leia, Lando, Chewie, Artoo and Threepio, Darth Vader, Boba Fett, and the

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collection editor Suzanne Taylor
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Allan Kausch & Lucy Autrey Wilson
at Lucas Licensing
and to **Steve Perry**

Star Wars®: Shadows of the Empire™

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This book collects issues 1-6 of the Dark Horse comic-book series *Star Wars®: Shadows of the Empire™*.



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dreaded Emperor. Han Solo, alas, is still frozen in that block of carbonite — cold, but in no way or no how forgotten.

On the first six comics set in the *Shadows* universe, I was a consultant — which in this case means the series editor could call me up and discuss what the writer, artists, letterers, and colorists were going to do in the comics that deviated from the novel, and how we might reconcile such differences. While the stories in the book and comics seldom intersected, it was necessary that characters, scenes, and dialogue match when they did come together.

I could name all those folks here, but since all you have to do is look at the credit list right in the front of this volume, I won't. Suffice it to say they are all professionals, sharp as a boxcar full of razors, and a delight to work with. (Those of you interested in knowing who helped on the book side of things should rush right out and buy a copy of the novel — I, uh, do get a piece of those royalties, thank you — and read the acknowledgment page therein.)

From the beginning, *Shadows* was intended to be a series of E-ticket rides — all exciting, but each one a little different from the others. The book will not give you the same experience as the comics or the Nintendo 64 game. The main plot line is the same, but there are all these great tangents and different characters playing their parts against the larger backdrop. This provides a richness beyond that of a single story line.

As you might suspect, assembling the whole project was somewhat tricky.

Like a jigsaw puzzle, the smaller pictures had to match up and fit together to form a larger picture. To this end, early on, there was a meeting at Skywalker Ranch with many of the principal licensees gathered around a table, in person or by proxy, to hammer out a story line everybody could live with. As committee meetings go, this one was outstanding, with all the participants from Lucasfilm and the various licensees contributing their thoughts and needs. It was a pleasure to watch and listen to so many smart people talk.

I got to be there, and I also offered my ideas — and took notes. Lots of notes.

After the meeting, I went home and wrote an outline based upon the meeting. This draft was sent out, then revised according to what best served most of the folks involved.

In due course, the novel was written, reviewed and edited, then rewritten to touch up minor points, and turned in.

The comics, which were being written and drawn at the same time so the first issue could be released immediately after the novel, took shape.

Joel McNeely, the noted composer, wrote and produced a soundtrack, performed by the Royal Scottish Orchestra and Choir, a terrific piece of work with such cuts as "Into the Sewers," "Xizor's Theme," and "The Seduction of Princess Leia."

The Brothers Hildebrandt painted a striking series of pictures for the Topps cards.

Kenner's new action figures hit the shelves.

The artists and programmers completed the game for the new Nintendo 64 system.

The technical wizards at Lucasfilm even put together a promo tape, cut from the *Star Wars* movies, a trailer for the movie-no-movie project.

I could go on — but you get the idea.

Thus far, the response to all this has been overwhelmingly positive. By and large, fans seemed to enjoy the *Shadows* experience. There are some who sampled a portion — the book or comics or toys — and came away unhappy, but this was partially due to the fragmented nature of the project. In order to get the complete experience, one needs to collect enough of the puzzle pieces to see the entire picture. And a lot of people either didn't want to do that, or didn't realize there was more to be had. (It always amazes me that there is sometimes such a lack of crossover between book and comic-book readers — they know about one, but not the other.)

Um. Anyway, I had myself a fine old time during all this. I got to write a book that spent six weeks on the *New York Times* best-seller list in hardback and, in the spring of '96, was released in paperback to similarly good sales.

And because I left a few ends deliberately dangling, I got invited by our good friends here at Dark Horse to wrap up those ends by writing a new, five-issue comics miniseries: *Star Wars: Shadows of the Empire — Evolution*.

Think all the bad guys died in *Shadows*?

Think again.

Am I having fun, or what? Of course, I sure would have liked to see the movie we didn't get to make. Couldn't, because the actors have aged twenty years, but it would have been a hoot.

Unless . . . Maybe I can convince Lucasfilm to do it in animation?

Steve Perry
Beaverton, OR
January 1997

STAR WARS®

Shadows of the Empire

Ultimate victory lies within the grasp of the dreaded Galactic Emperor Palpatine as the tattered remnants of the Rebel fleet desperately seek sanctuary and time to muster new allies.

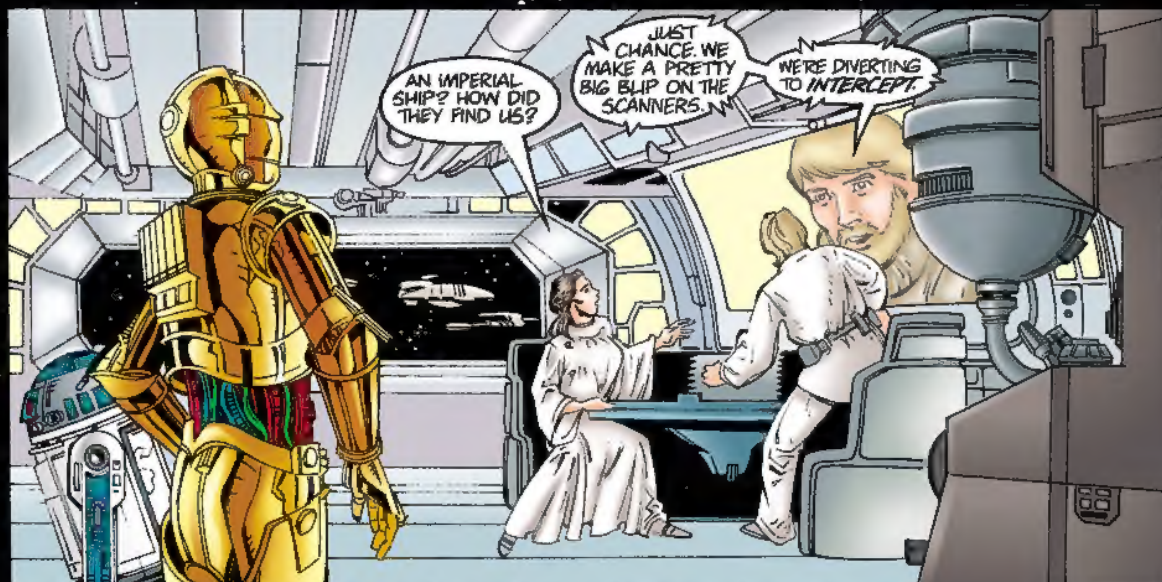
A grim Luke Skywalker, reeling from Darth Vader's revelation on the cloud city of Bespin, ponders his own destiny and that of the Rebel Alliance. Meanwhile, the search ensues for Han Solo, captive of the notorious bounty hunter, Boba Fett.

To deal a final blow to the Rebellion, Palpatine has hatched a new plan of which even Lord Vader is unaware. To aid him, the Emperor has enlisted the services of the vast criminal underworld that lurks within the Shadows of the Empire





PRINCESS,
WE'RE PICKING
UP A SHIP APPROACHING
RAPIDLY. WE SUSPECT IT'S
HOSTILE.



AN IMPERIAL
SHIP? HOW DID
THEY FIND US?

JUST
CHANCE. WE
MAKE A PRETTY
BIG BLIP ON THE
SCANNERS.

WE'RE DIVERTING
TO INTERCEPT.



C'MON, ARTOO-!

LUKE!
WHERE ARE YOU
GOING?

I'M
NEEDED,
LEIA!



MASTER LUKE, THIS IS
MOST INADVISABLE! YOU'VE
HARDLY RECOVERED FROM
YOUR INJURIES!

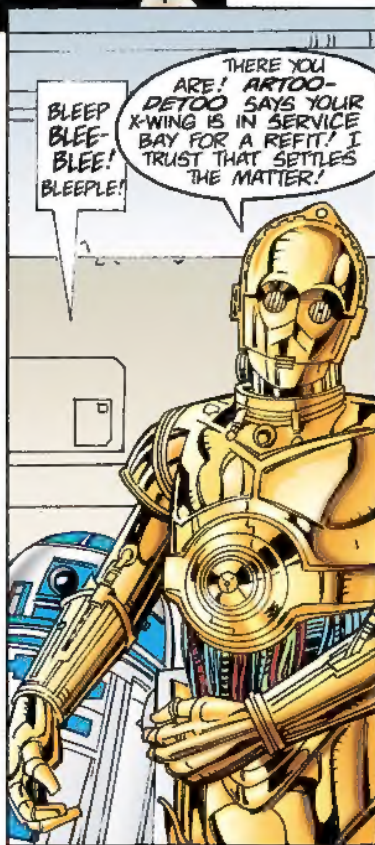
AND BESIDES,
IT WILL BE SOME TIME
BEFORE YOU'VE MASTERED
THAT NEW PROS-
THESIS...

IF YOU MEAN
MY HAND, IT'S
FINE--



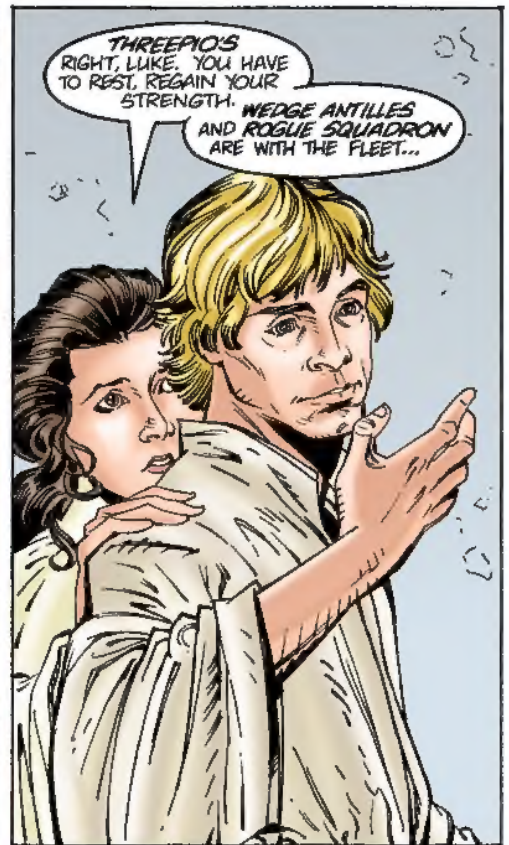
I BEG TO
DIFFER!

SO
I NEED
A LITTLE
MORE
PRACTICE. I
DON'T NEED
BOTH HANDS
TO FLY AN
X-WING
ANYWAY.



BLEEP
BLEE-
BLEE!
BLEEP!

THERE YOU
ARE! ARTOO-
DETTO SAYS YOUR
X-WING IS IN SERVICE
BAY FOR A REFIT! I
TRUST THAT SETTLES
THE MATTER!



THREEPIO'S
RIGHT, LUKE. YOU HAVE
TO REST, REGAIN YOUR
STRENGTH.

WEDGE ANTILLES
AND ROGUE SQUADRON
ARE WITH THE FLEET...

"THEY CAN PROVIDE
ALL THE BACKUP
WE NEED!"

WEDGE! WE HAVE
CONFIRMATION! IT'S
AN IMPERIAL **STRIKE**
CRUISER! IT'S ESSEN-
TIAL THAT IT DOES NOT
ESCAPE TO GIVE AWAY
OUR POSITION!

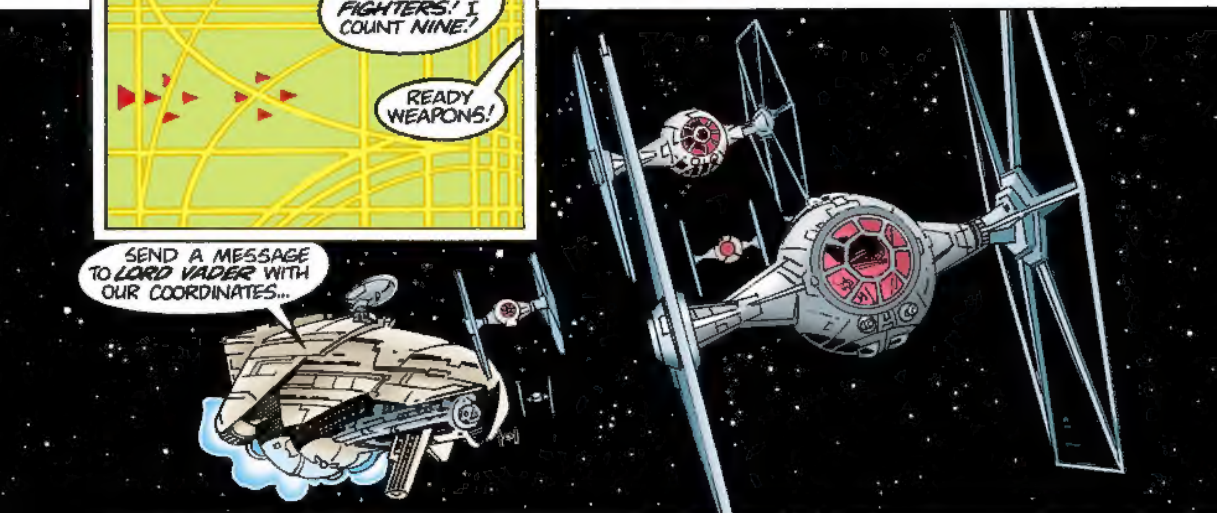
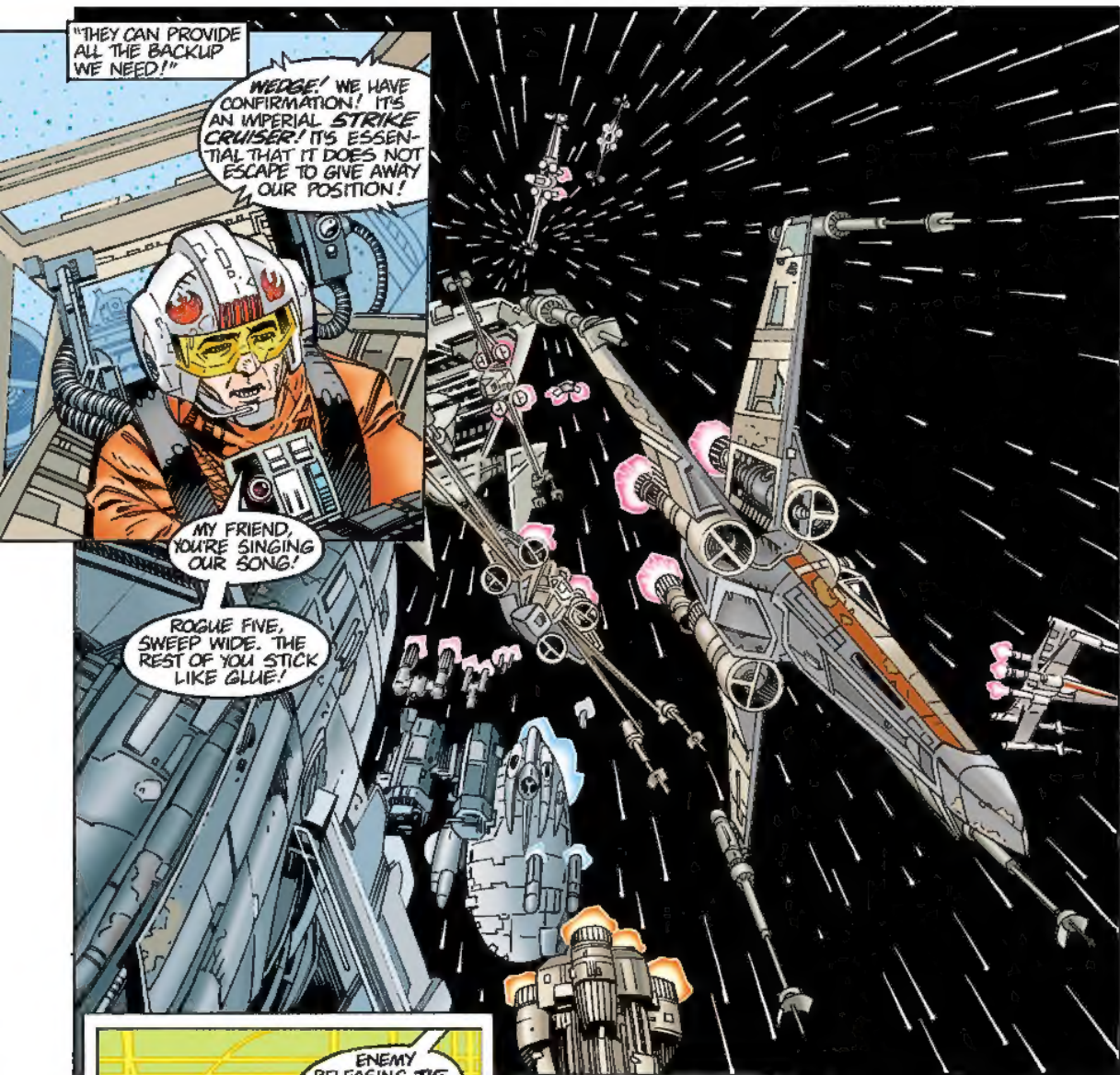
MY FRIEND,
YOU'RE SINGING
OUR SONG!

ROGUE FIVE,
SWEEP WIDE. THE
REST OF YOU STICK
LIKE GLUE!

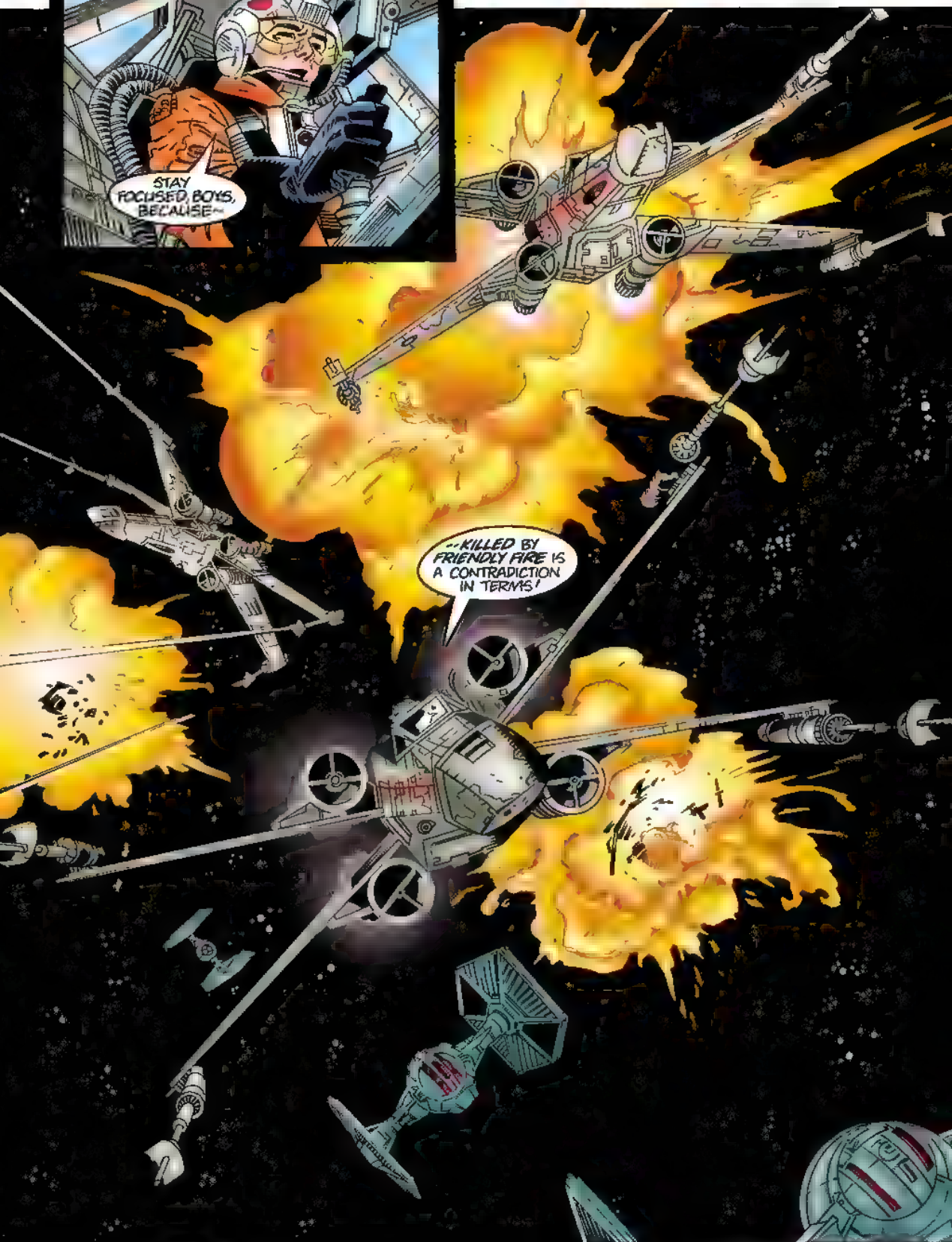
ENEMY
RELEASING TIE
FIGHTERS! I
COUNT NINE!

READY
WEAPONS!

SEND A MESSAGE
TO LORD VADER WITH
OUR COORDINATES...



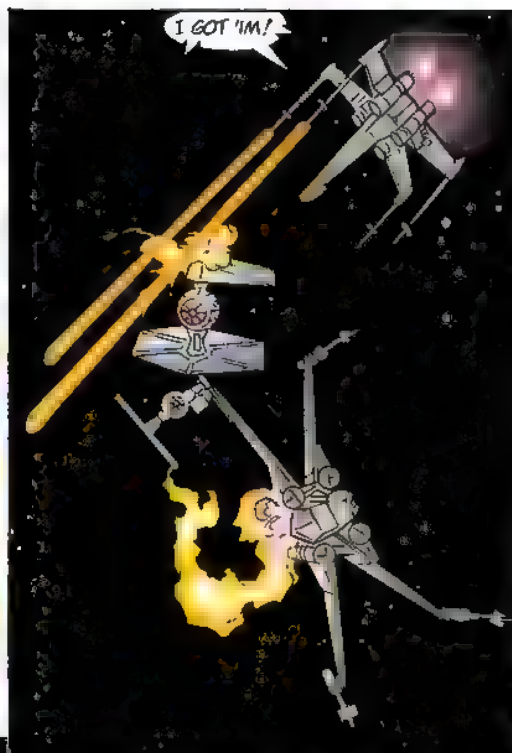




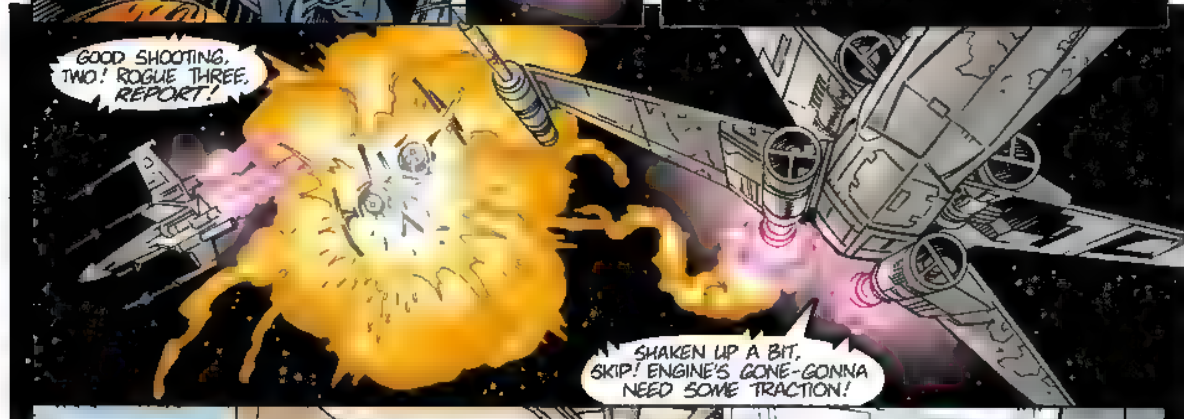


ROGUE THREE,
YOU GOT DOUBLE
TROUBLE ON YOUR
TAIL!

I'M
HIT!

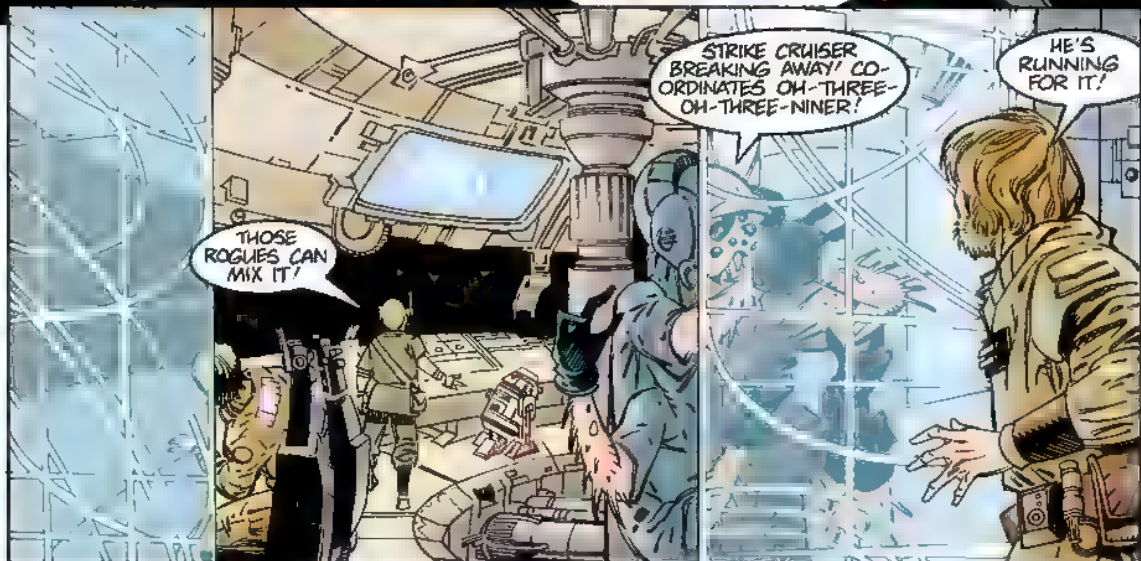


I GOT 'IM!



GOOD SHOOTING,
TWO! ROGUE THREE,
REPORT!

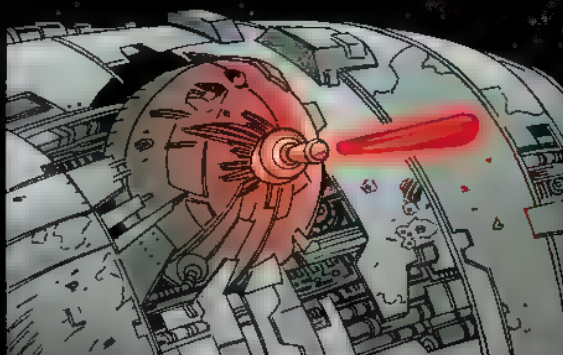
SHAKEN UP A BIT,
SKIP! ENGINE'S GONE-GONNA
NEED SOME TRACTION!



THOSE
ROGUES CAN
MIX IT!

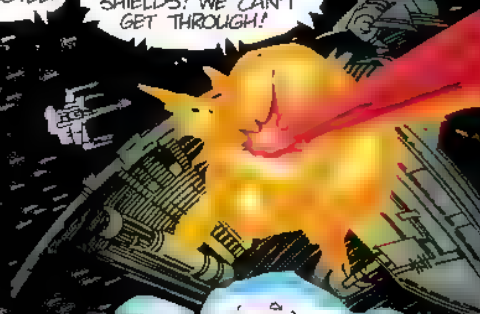
STRIKE CRUISER
BREAKING AWAY! CO-
ORDINATES OH-THREE-
CH-THREE-NINER!

HE'S
RUNNING
FOR IT!



SHOT
DEFLECTED!

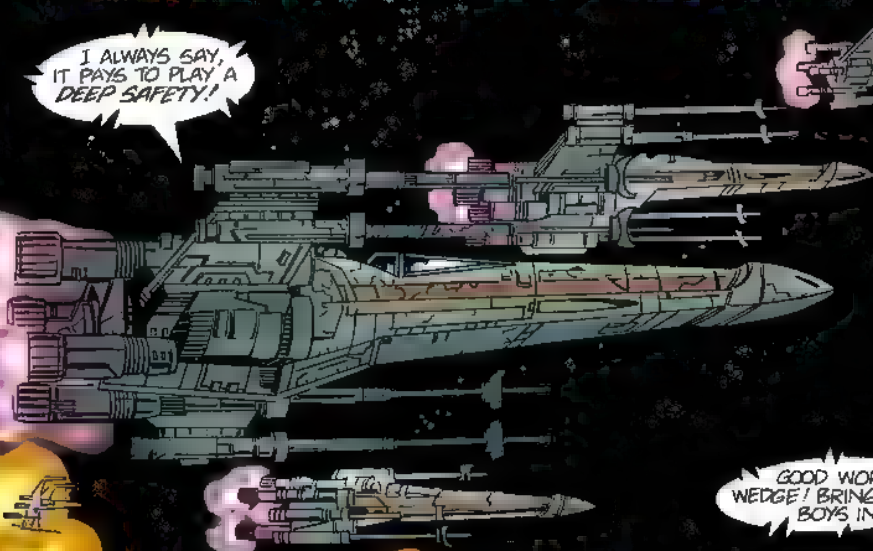
THEY'RE DIVERTING
POWER TO THEIR REAR
SHIELDS! WE CAN'T
GET THROUGH!



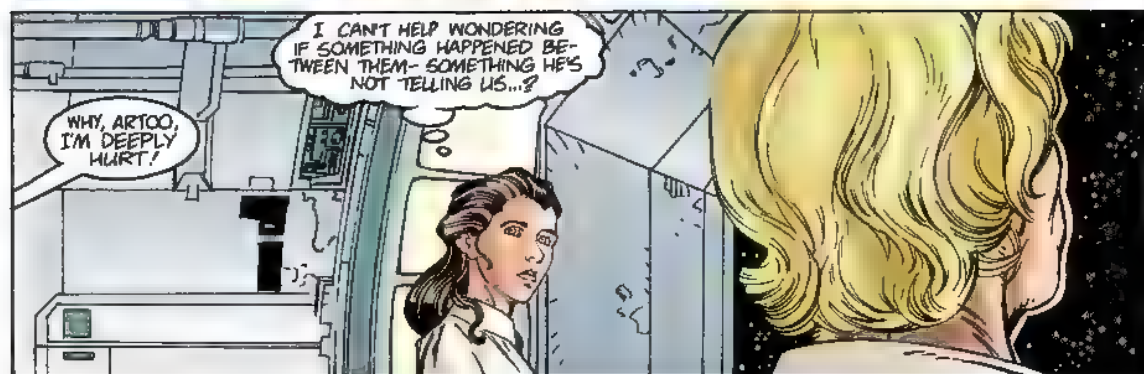
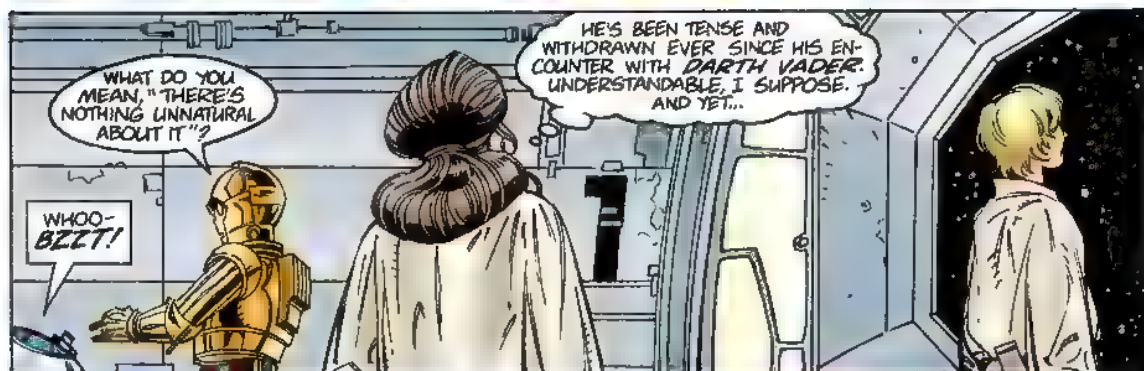
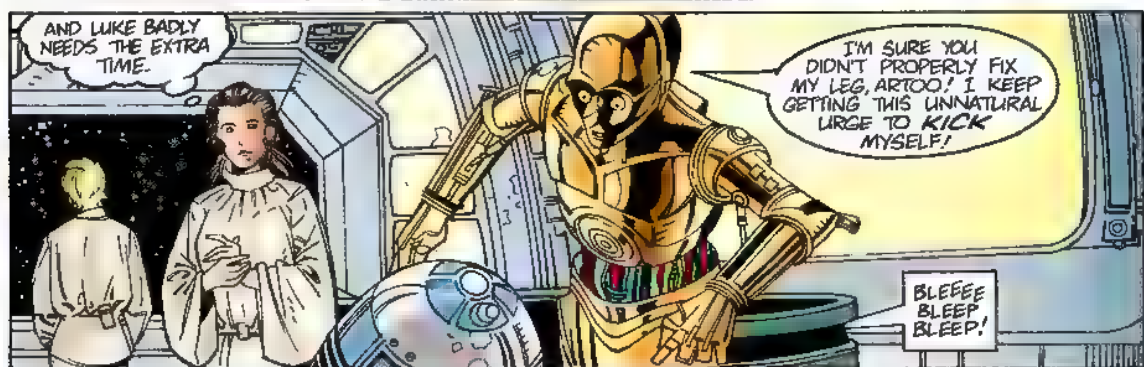
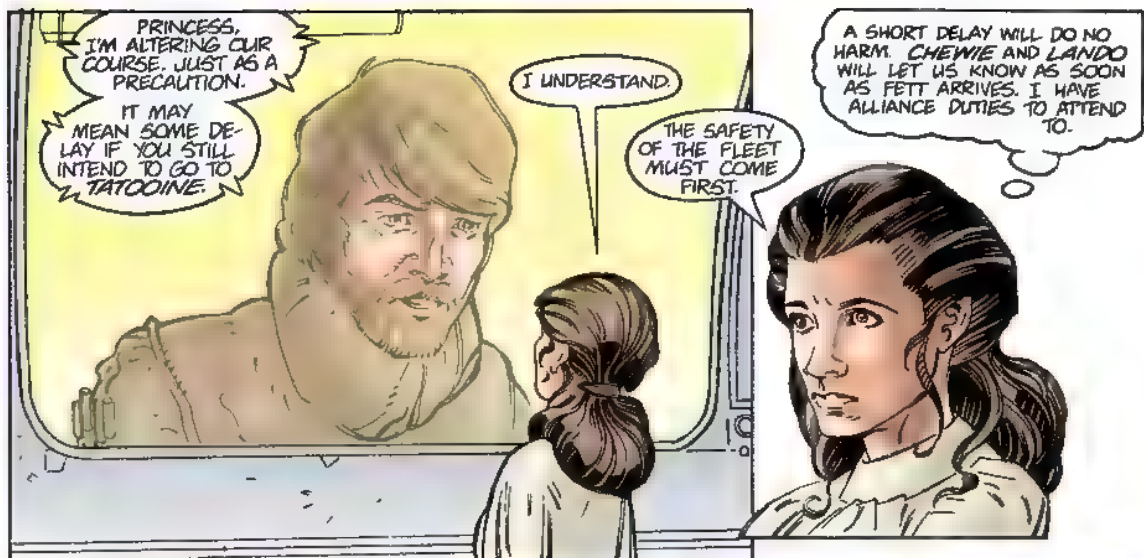
THEN THAT LEAVES
HIM WIDE OPEN FRONT-
SIDE! ROGUE FIVE
GOT YOUR RUNAWAY IN
HIS SIGHTS!

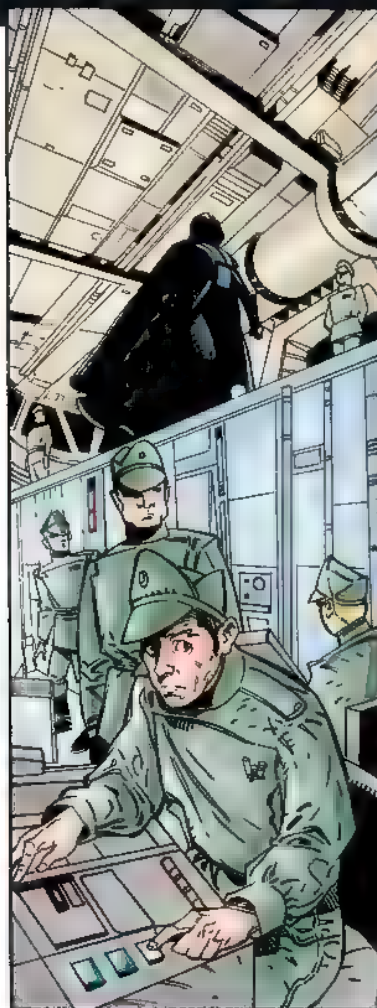


I ALWAYS SAY,
IT PAYS TO PLAY A
DEEP SAFETY!



GOOD WORK,
WEDGE! BRING YOUR
BOYS IN!

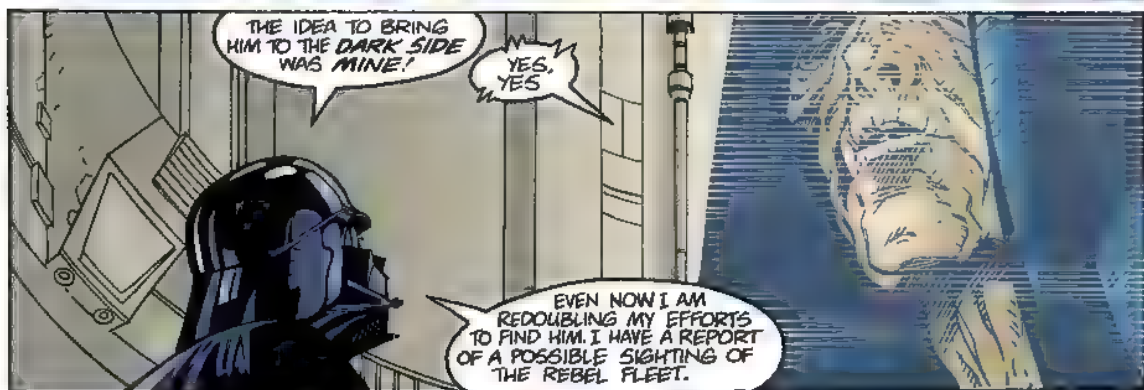
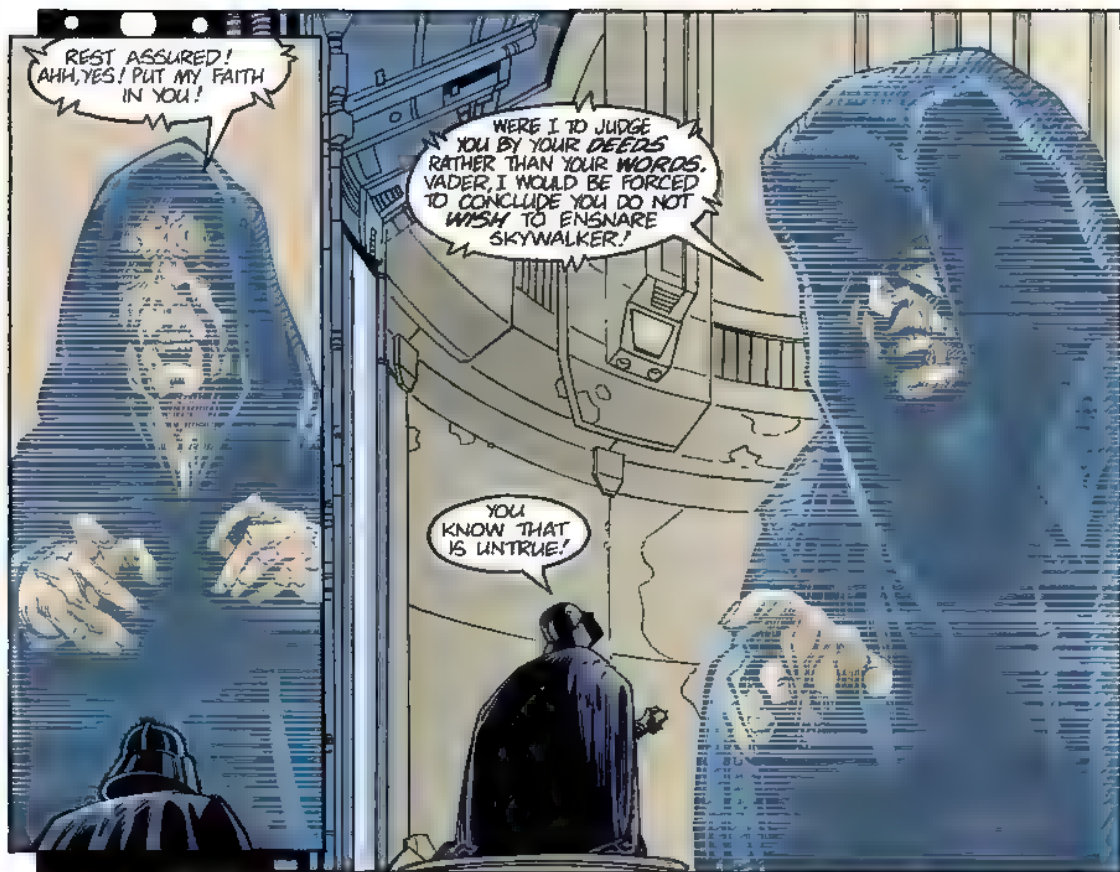


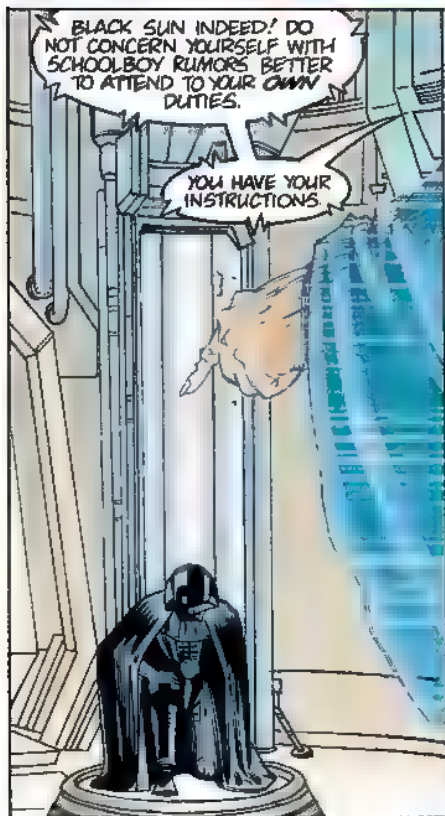
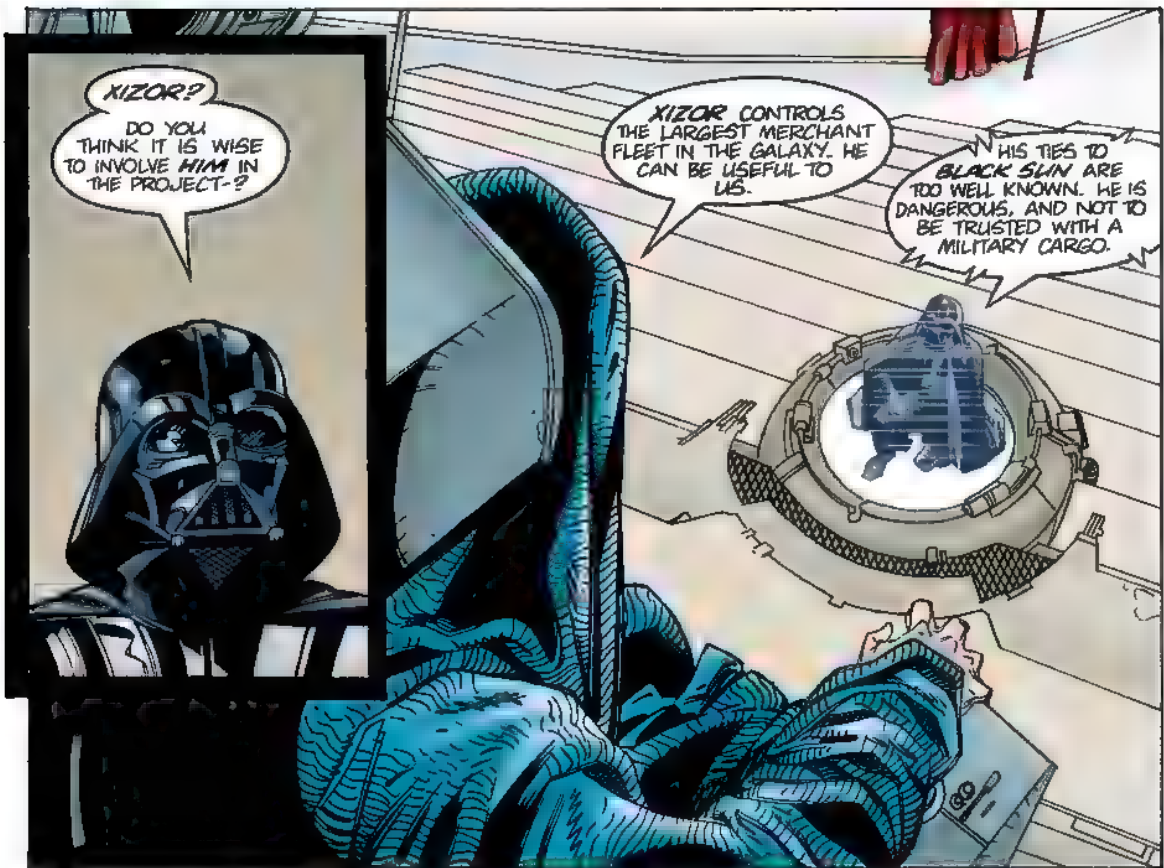


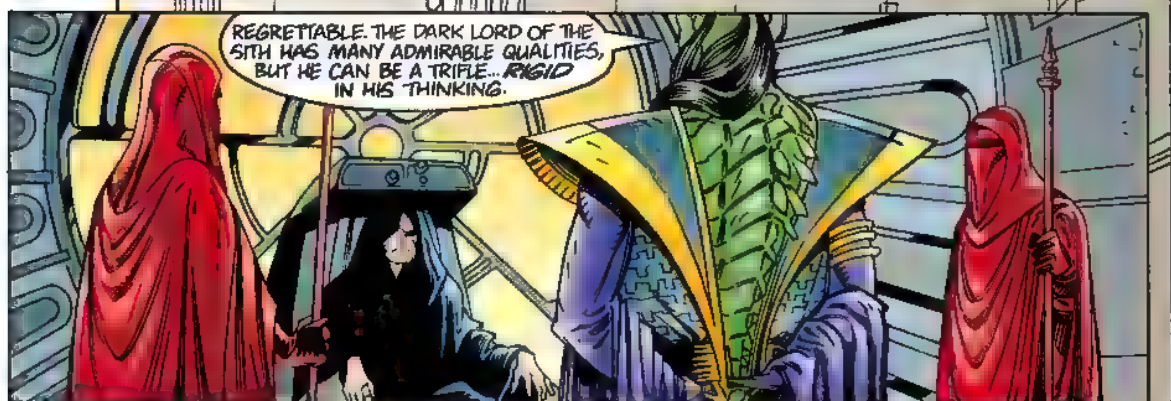
LUKE SKYWALKER'S
ESCAPE WAS UNFORTUNATE-
BUT NOT FATAL. I HAVE
SOWN THE SEEDS OF AM-
BITION IN HIS MIND.

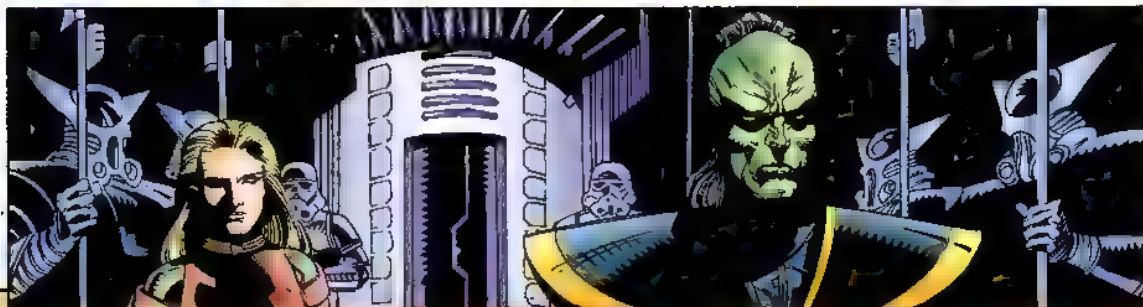
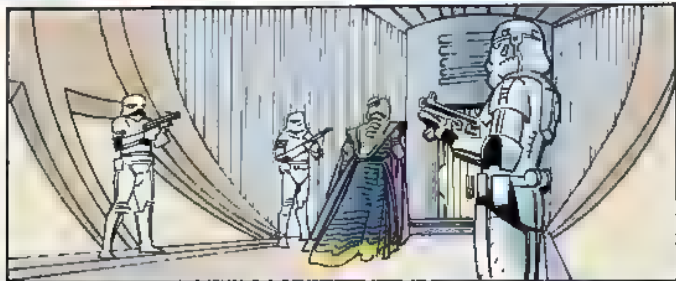
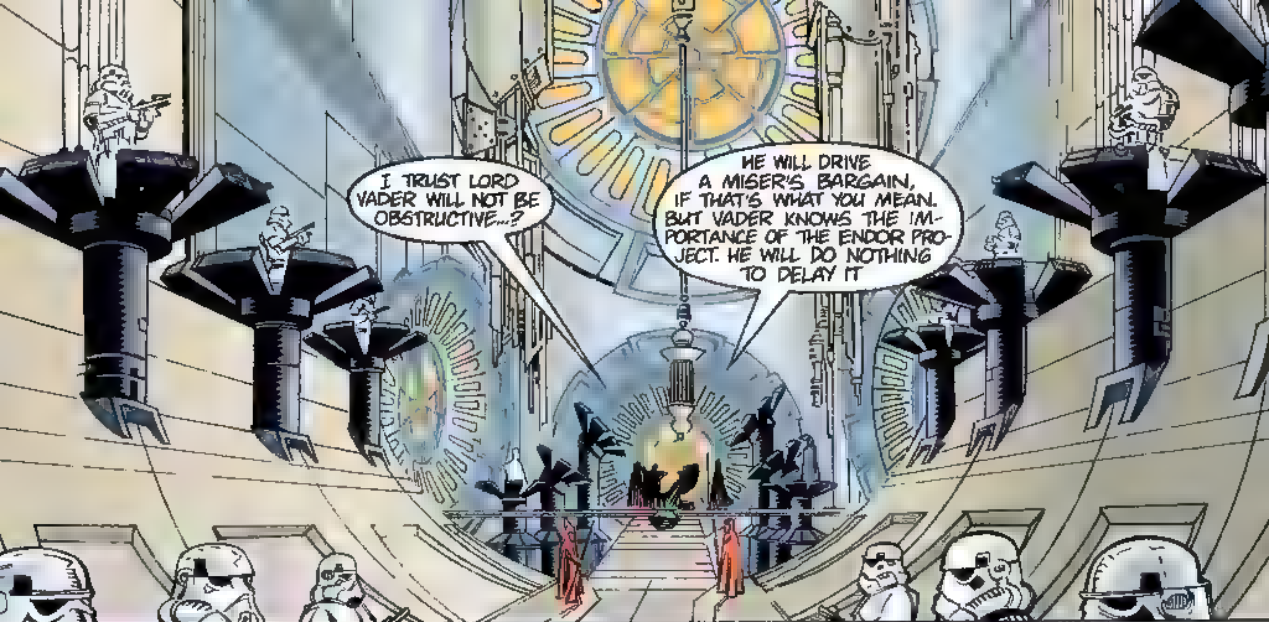
REST
ASSURED, HE WILL
BE OURS.

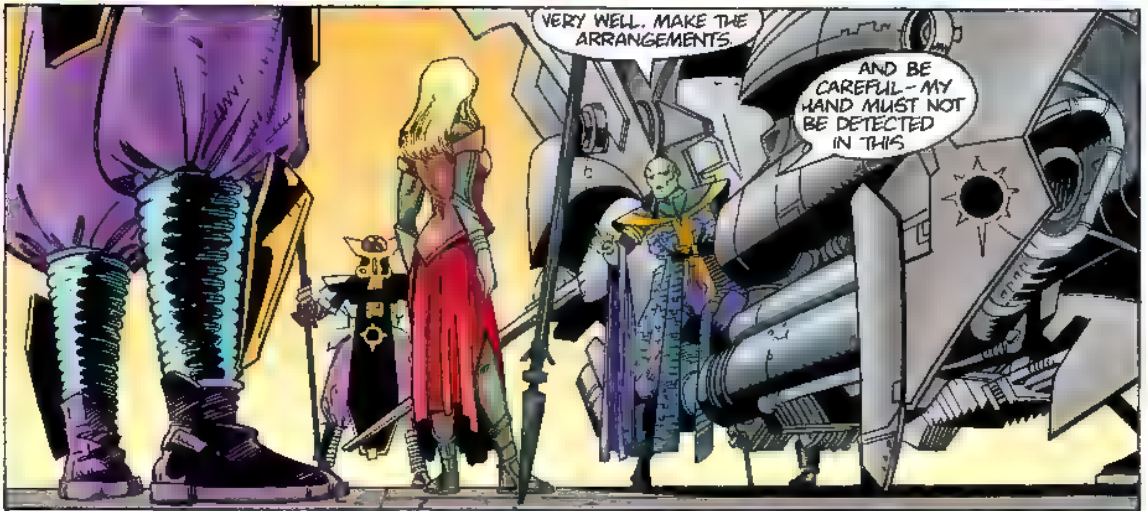
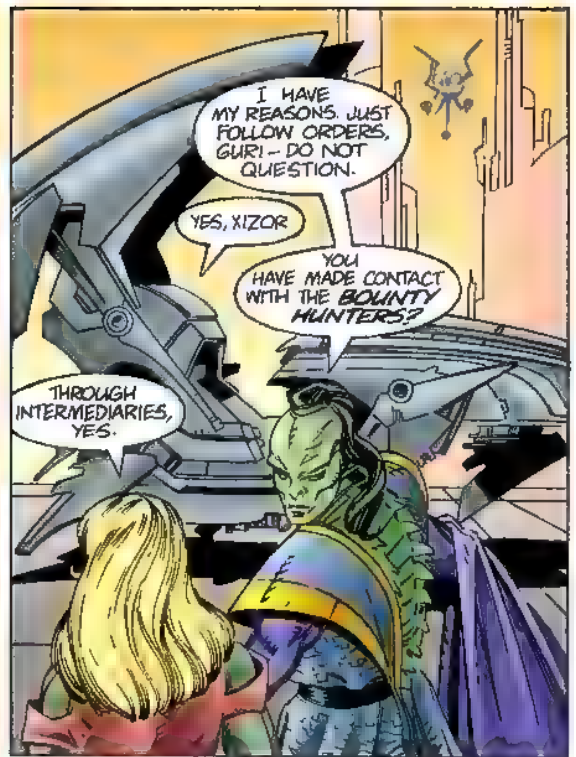


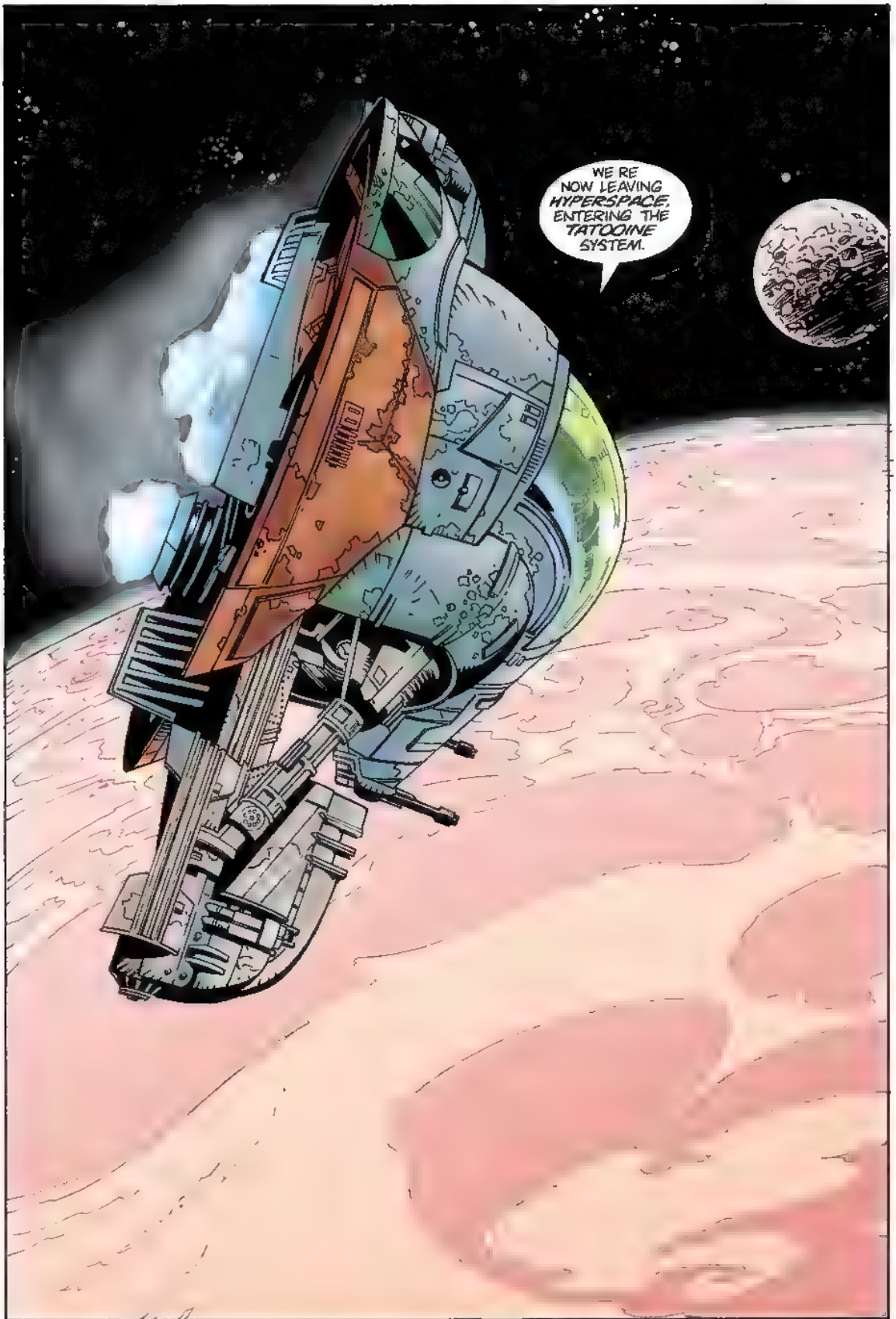


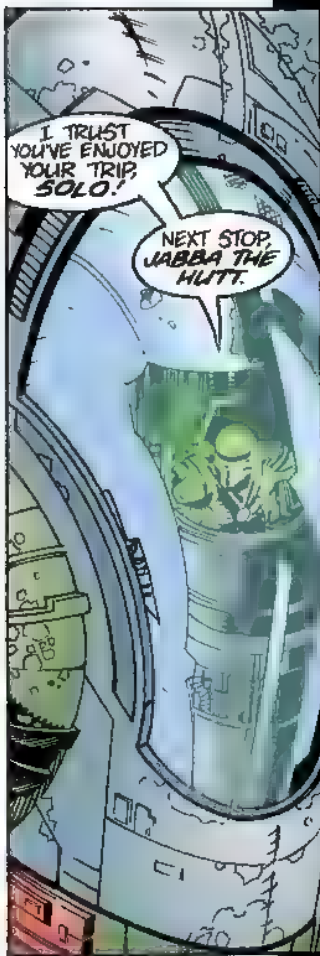












I TRUST
YOU'VE ENJOYED
YOUR TRIP,
SOLO!

NEXT STOP,
JABBA THE
HUTT.



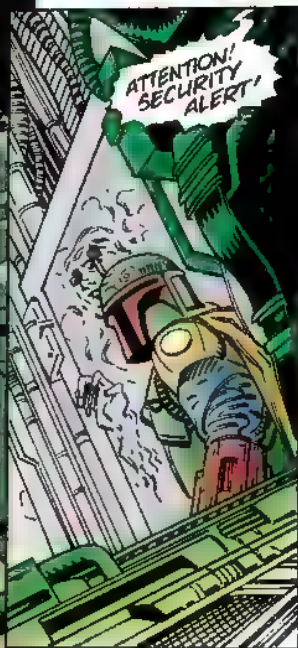
HE'S GOING TO
PAY WELL FOR YOU.
YOU SEE, SOLO, YOU'RE
NOT JUST A PRISONER—
YOU'RE MORE THAN
THAT. YOU'RE A WORK
OF ART.



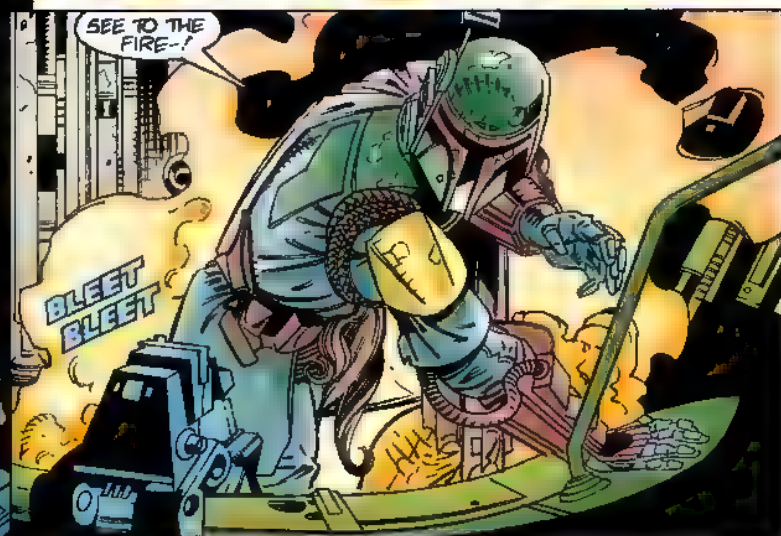
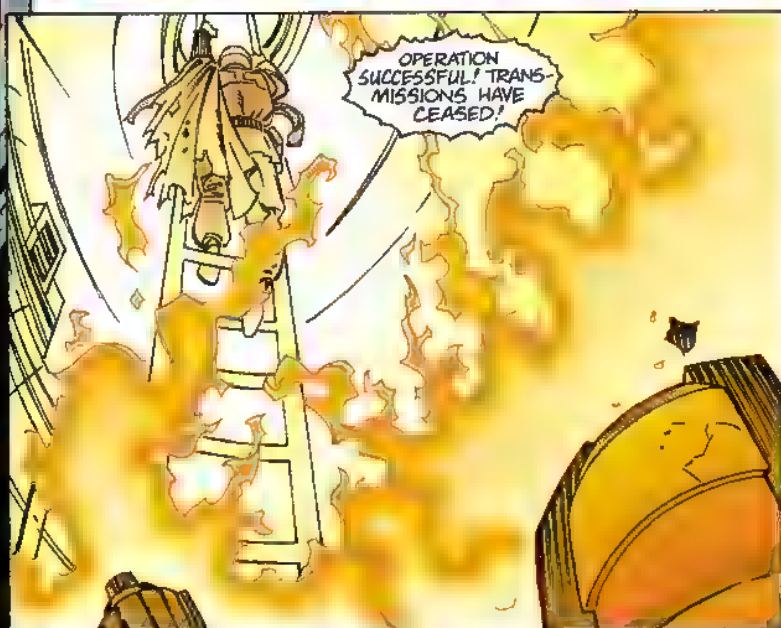
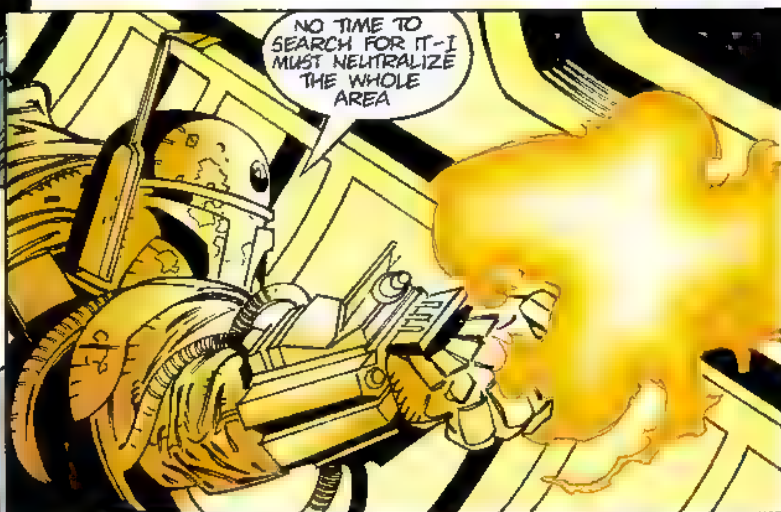
NOT ALIVE—
NOT DEAD. FROZEN
IN A MOMENT OF
TIME.

"MAN IN
CARBONITE"—A
MASTERPIECE BY
DARTH VADER!

OH YES,
JABBA WILL
PAY DEAR TO PUT
YOU IN HIS
COLLECTION!



ATTENTION!
SECURITY
ALERT!





COMPUTER! CALCULATE TRAJECTORY FOR RETURN TO HYPERSPACE!



I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN THEY'D TRY TO MOVE IN ON YOU, SOLO.

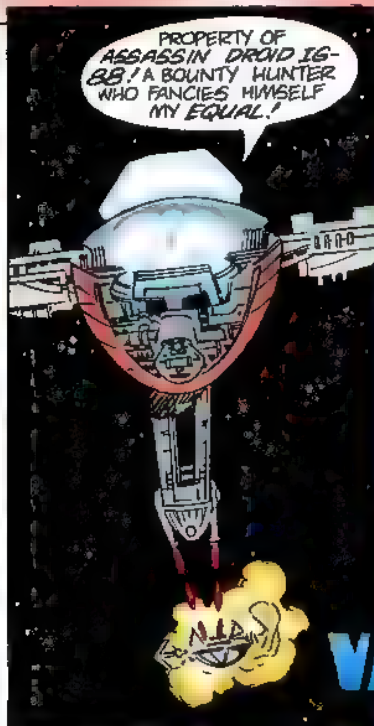
THEY KNOW WE'RE HERE NOW, BUT WHERE ARE THEY?



AHH!



NO MISTAKING THE OUTLINE! IG-2000!



PROPERTY OF ASSASSIN DROID IG-BB! A BOUNTY HUNTER WHO FANCIES HIMSELF MY EQUAL!

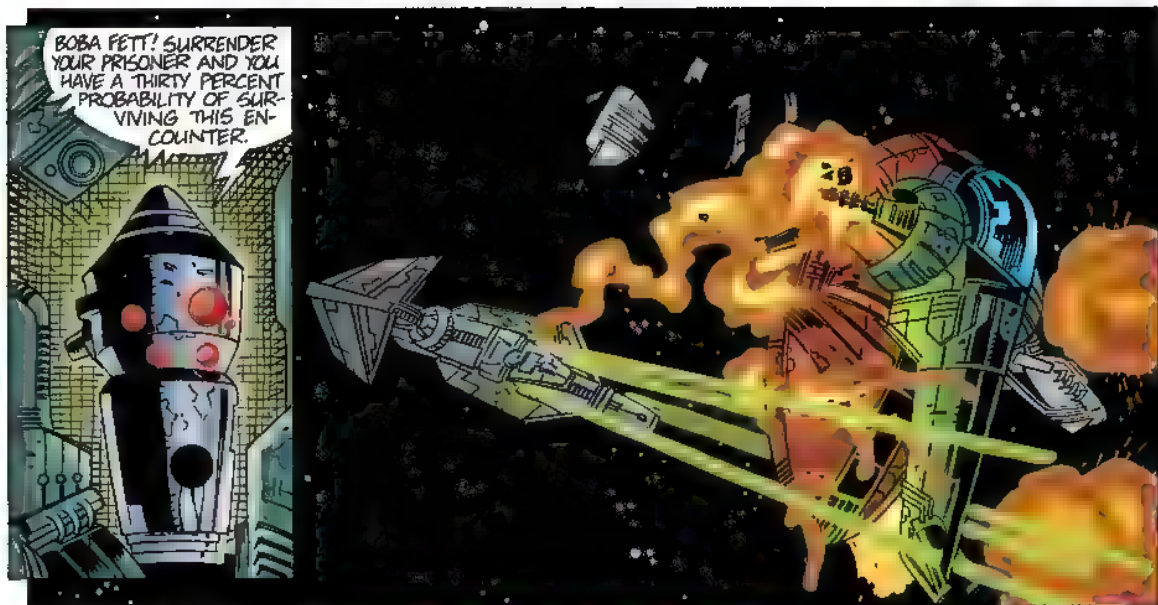


WRONG! TOO EASY! IT HAS TO BE A DECOY!

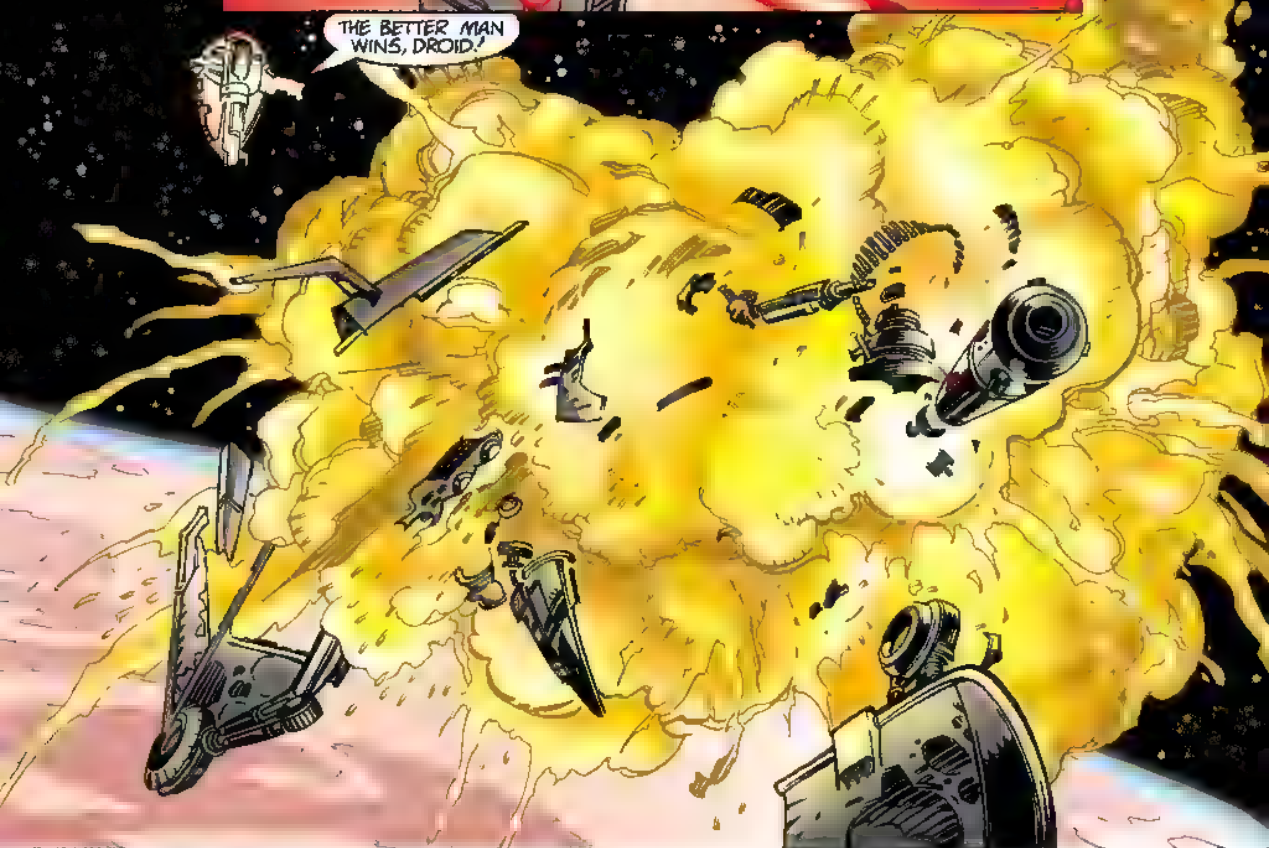
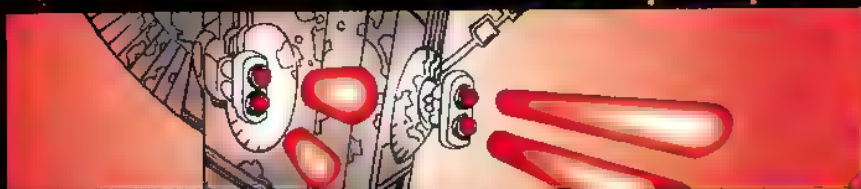
VABOOM

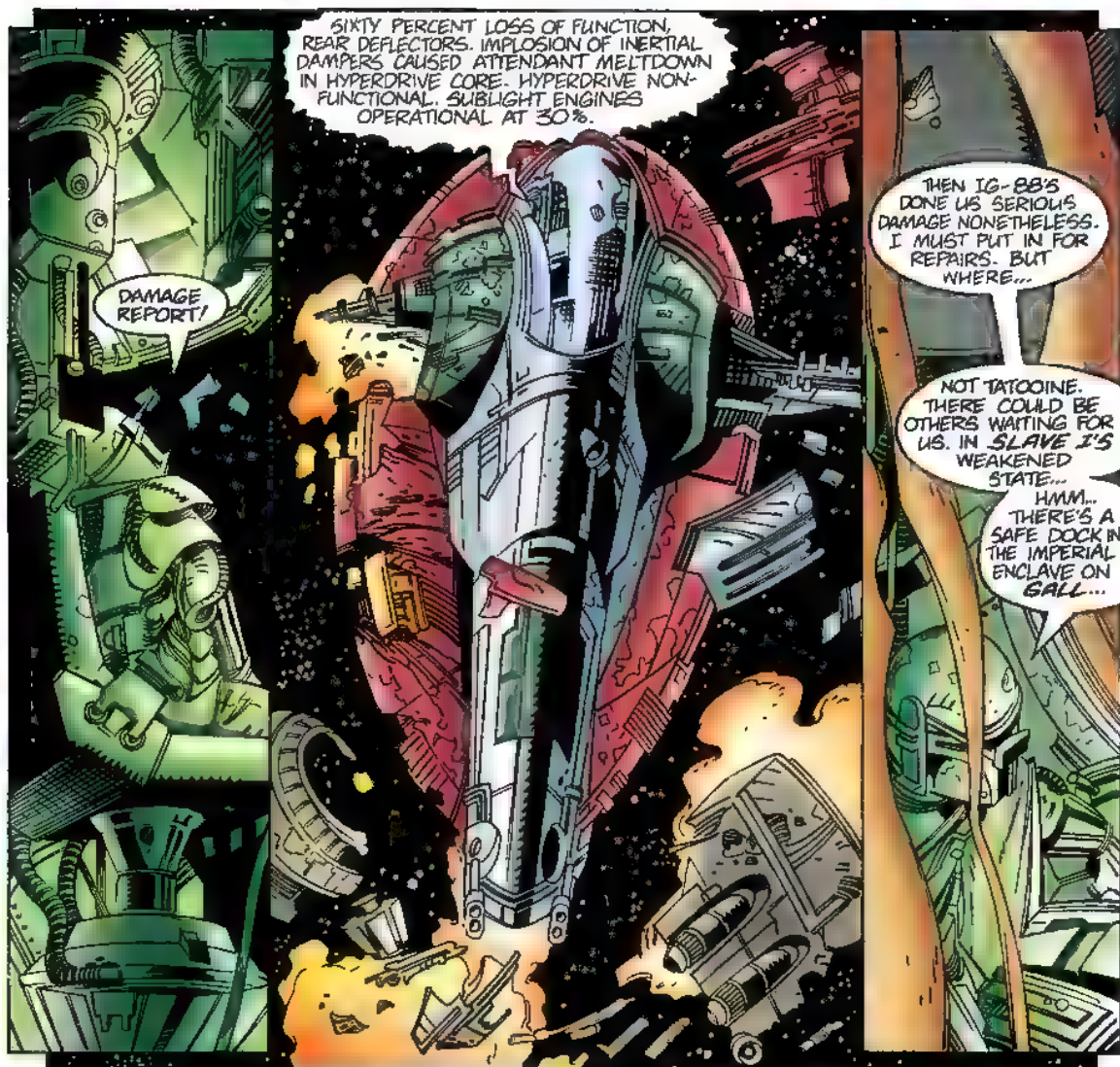


SKREEE OOM









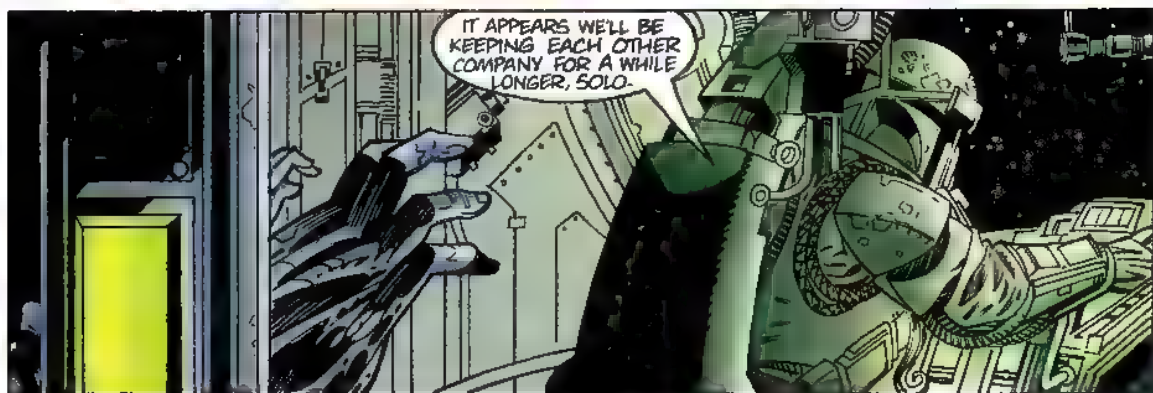
SIXTY PERCENT LOSS OF FUNCTION. REAR DEFLECTORS. IMPLSION OF INERTIAL DAMPERS CAUSED ATTENDANT MELTDOWN IN HYPERDRIVE CORE. HYPERDRIVE NON-FUNCTIONAL. SUBLIGHT ENGINES OPERATIONAL AT 30%.

DAMAGE REPORT!

THEN IG-88'S DONE US SERIOUS DAMAGE NONETHELESS. I MUST PUT IN FOR REPAIRS. BUT WHERE...

NOT TATTOOINE. THERE COULD BE OTHERS WAITING FOR US. IN SLAVE I'S WEAKENED STATE...

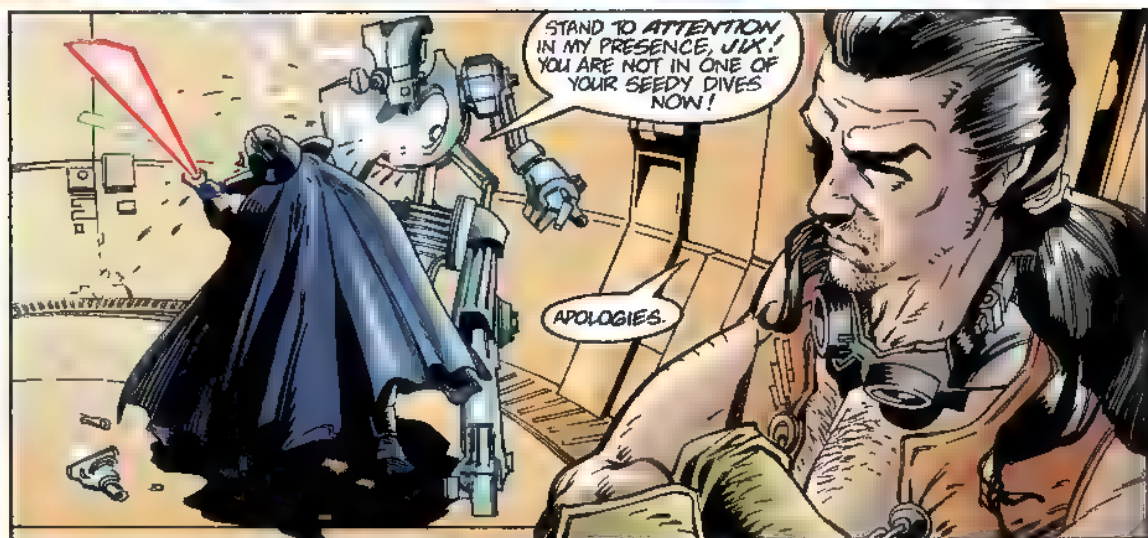
HMM... THERE'S A SAFE DOCK IN THE IMPERIAL ENCLAVE ON GALL...

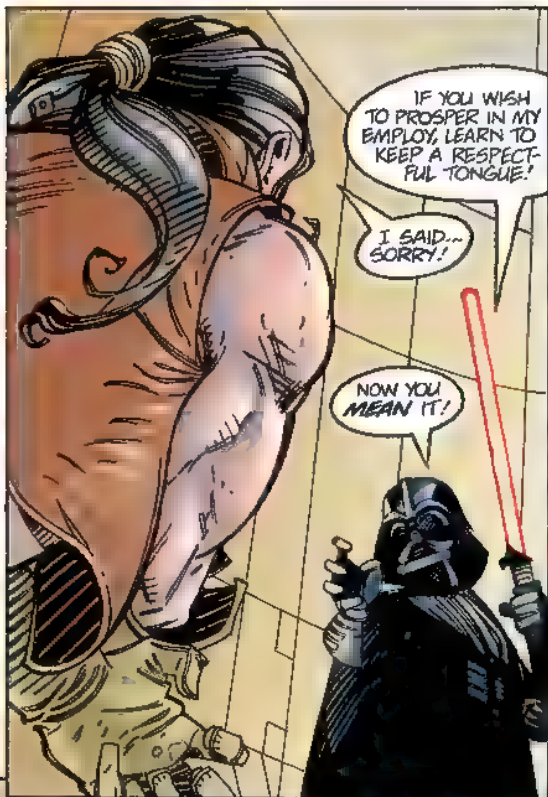


IT APPEARS WE'LL BE KEEPING EACH OTHER COMPANY FOR A WHILE LONGER, SOLO.



THOUGH LET'S NOT HOPE TOO MUCH LONGER..!

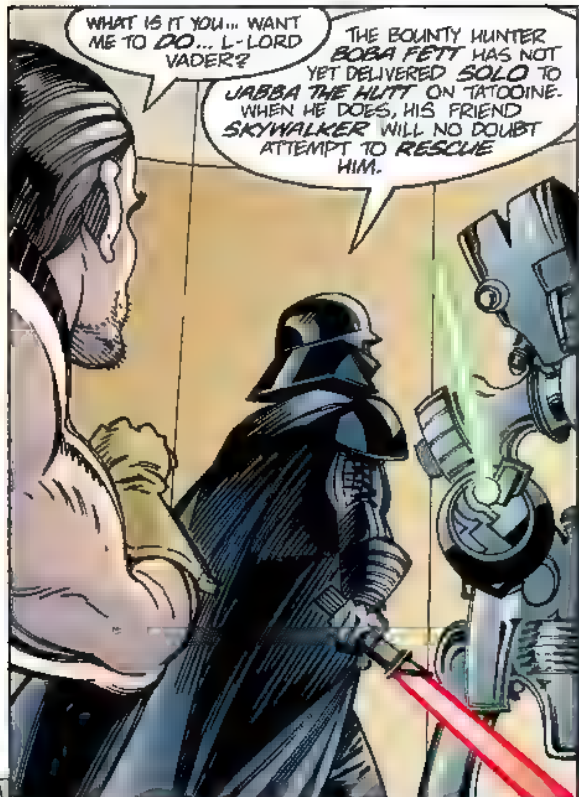




IF YOU WISH TO PROSPER IN MY EMPLOY, LEARN TO KEEP A RESPECTFUL TONGUE!

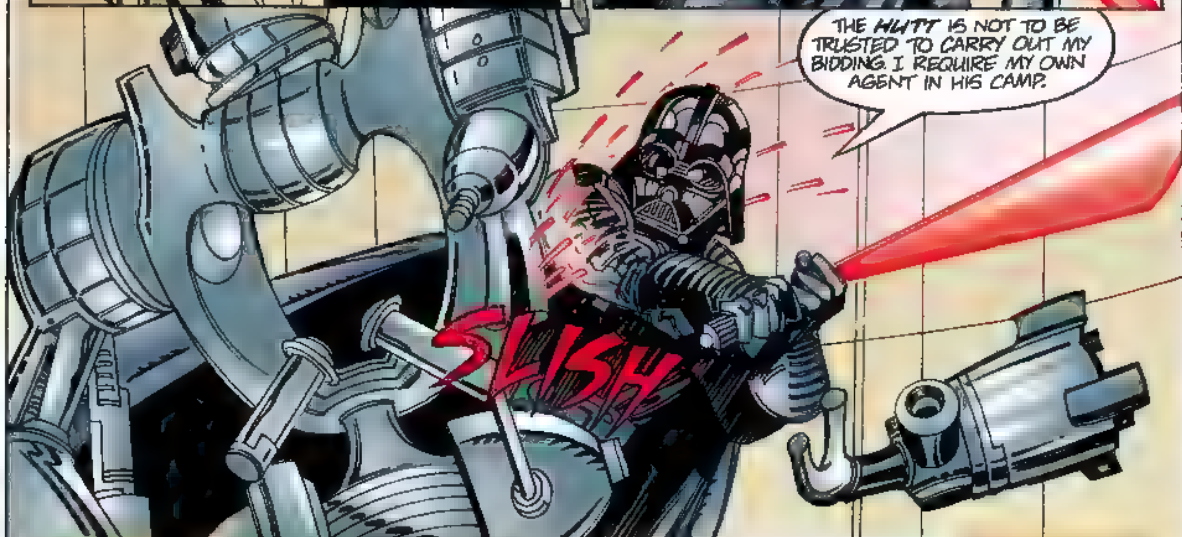
I SAID... SORRY!

NOW YOU MEAN IT!



WHAT IS IT YOU... WANT ME TO DO... L-LORD VADER?

THE BOUNTY HUNTER BOBA FETT HAS NOT YET DELIVERED SOLO TO JABBA THE HUTT ON TATOOINE. WHEN HE DOES, HIS FRIEND SKYWALKER WILL NO DOUBT ATTEMPT TO RESCUE HIM.

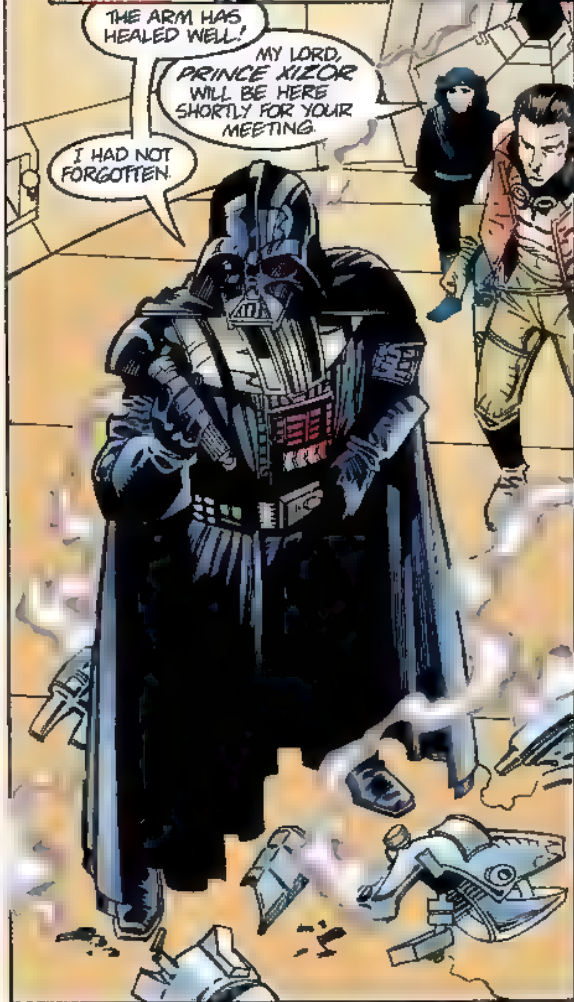
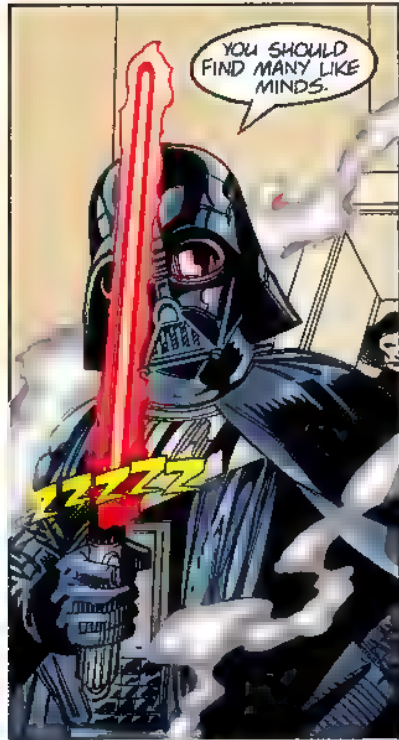


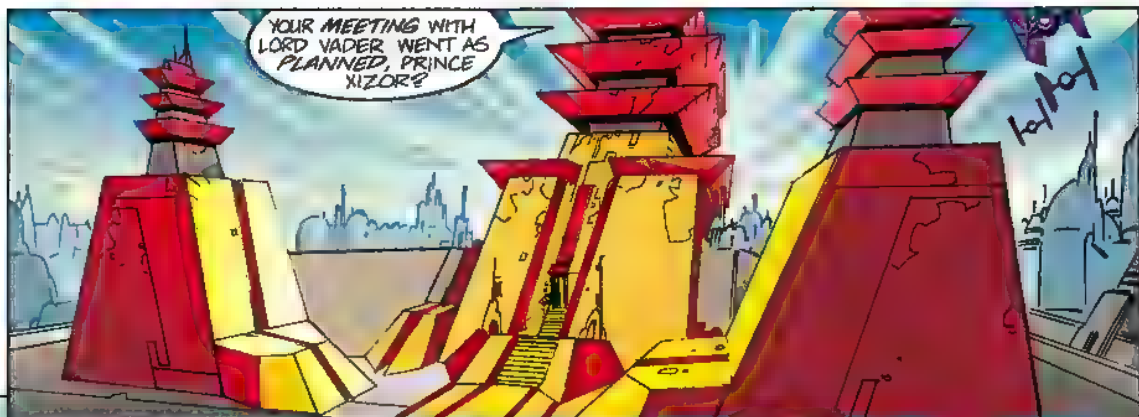
THE HUTT IS NOT TO BE TRUSTED TO CARRY OUT MY BIDDING I REQUIRE MY OWN AGENT IN HIS CAMP.



AHH! SO I GO TO WORK FOR THE FAT GUY? SUITS ME I'VE WORKED FOR WORSE.

NOT MUCH WORSE, THOUGH...





YOUR MEETING WITH LORD VADER WENT AS PLANNED, PRINCE XIZOR?

YES, JUST AS PLANNED. I BOWED AND I SCRAPED AND ACCEDED TO ALL HIS DEMANDS.

THREE HUNDRED SHIPS FOR THE... CONSTRUCTION PROJECT ON ENDOR-STANDARD IMPERIAL TERMS. LORD VADER COULD NOT HAVE FOUND A MORE AMENABLE BUSINESS PARTNER.



OR A MORE DANGEROUS ENEMY.

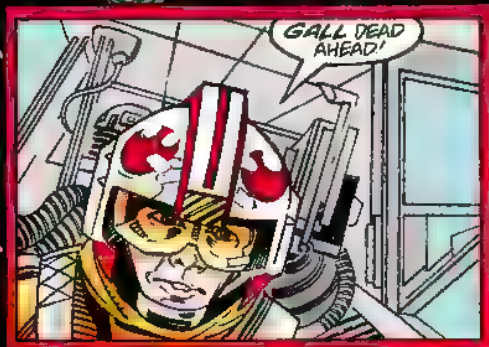
YOU HAVE SET LOOSE THE BOUNTY HUNTERS, GURI?

YES. HOWEVER, THEY MAY BE UNNECESSARY. BOBA FETT'S SHIP WAS BEEN SIGHTED ON GALL.



IF LUKE SKYWALKER ACTS TRUE TO FORM, HIS DEATH IS ASSURED- WITH ENOUGH CLUES LEFT BEHIND TO IMPLICATE THE EMPIRE!

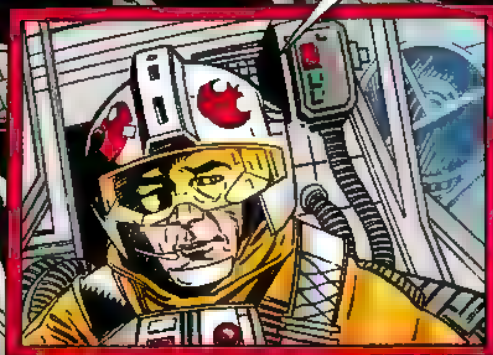




WE'LL BE IN
RANGE OF THE IM-
PERIAL CRUISER IN
THREE MINUTES,
WEDGE.

YOU HEARD
COMMANDER
SKYWALKER,
ROGUES

ATTACK
FORMATION! WE'RE
GONNA STIR US UP
A BUZZER'S
NEST!



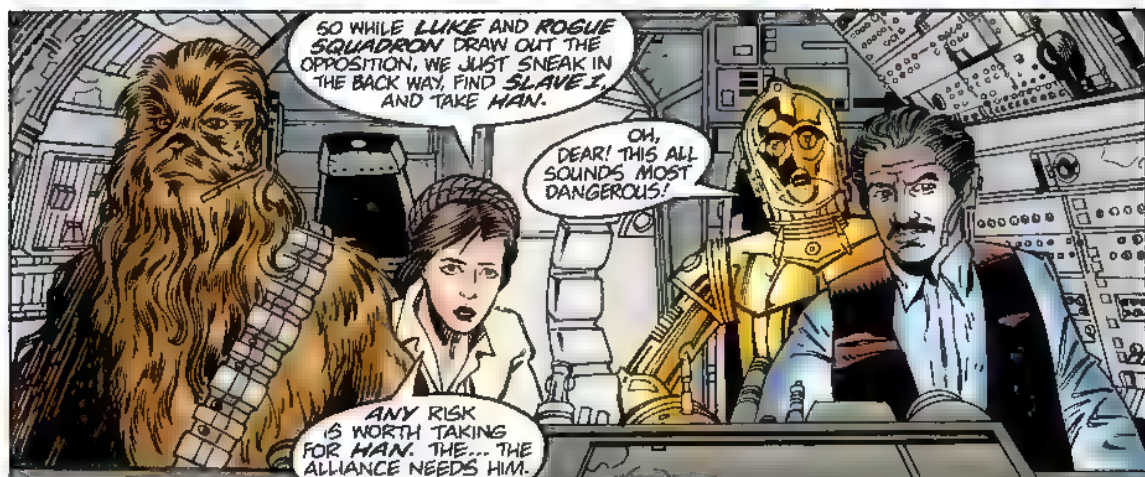


I HOPE LANDO'S RIGHT ABOUT THIS, SKIP! WE'RE TAKING A BIG CHANCE! WHAT IF BOBA FETT'S NOT ON GALL--?

I ASSURE YOU, MY INFORMATION CAME FROM A VERY RELIABLE SOURCE!

FETT WAS ON HIS WAY TO DELIVER HAN TO JABBA WHEN ANOTHER BOUNTY HUNTER ATTEMPTED A LITTLE SMASH-AND-GRAB! FETT'S SHIP SLAVE I WAS BADLY DAMAGED. THE SAFEST PLACE TO MAKE REPAIRS WAS THE IMPERIAL ENCLAVE ON GALL--IT BEING HEAVILY FORTIFIED.

THAT THOUGHT FILLS US WITH GREAT COMFORT, LANDO.



SO WHILE LUKE AND ROGUE SQUADRON DRAW OUT THE OPPOSITION, WE JUST SNEAK IN THE BACK WAY, FIND SLAVE I, AND TAKE HAN.

OH, DEAR! THIS ALL SOUNDS MOST DANGEROUS!

ANY RISK IS WORTH TAKING FOR HAN. THE... THE ALLIANCE NEEDS HIM.



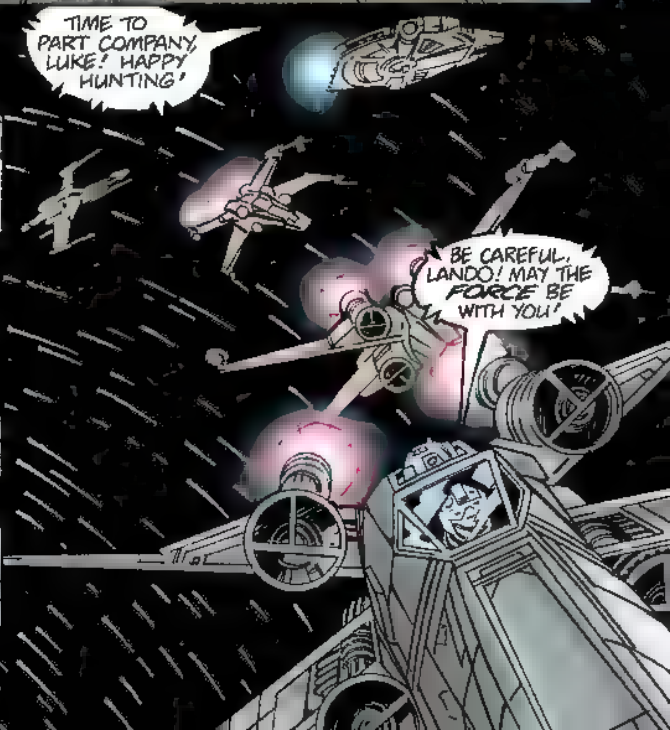
GRROUARRHH.

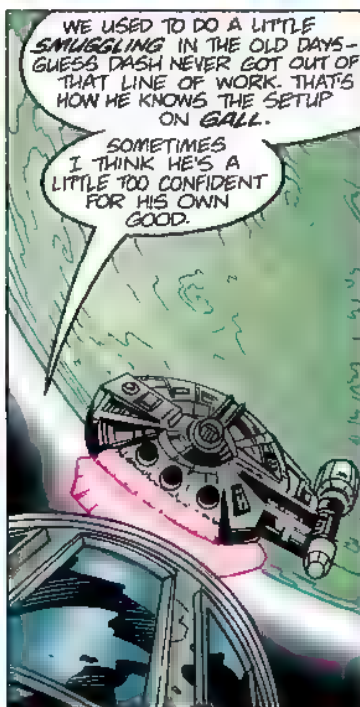
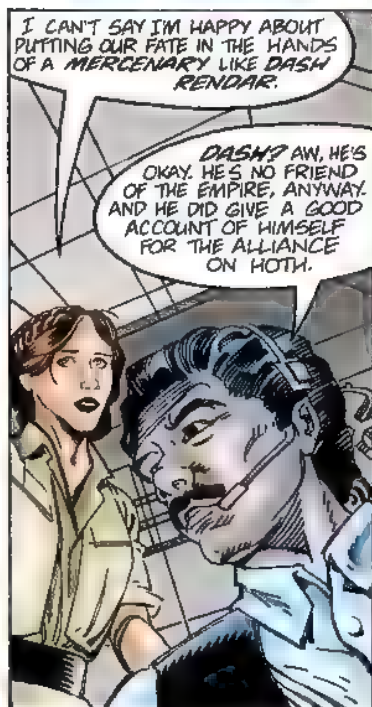
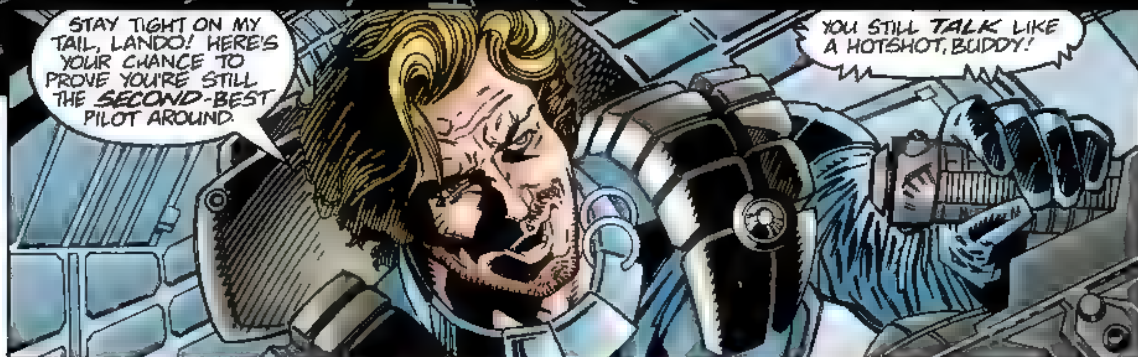
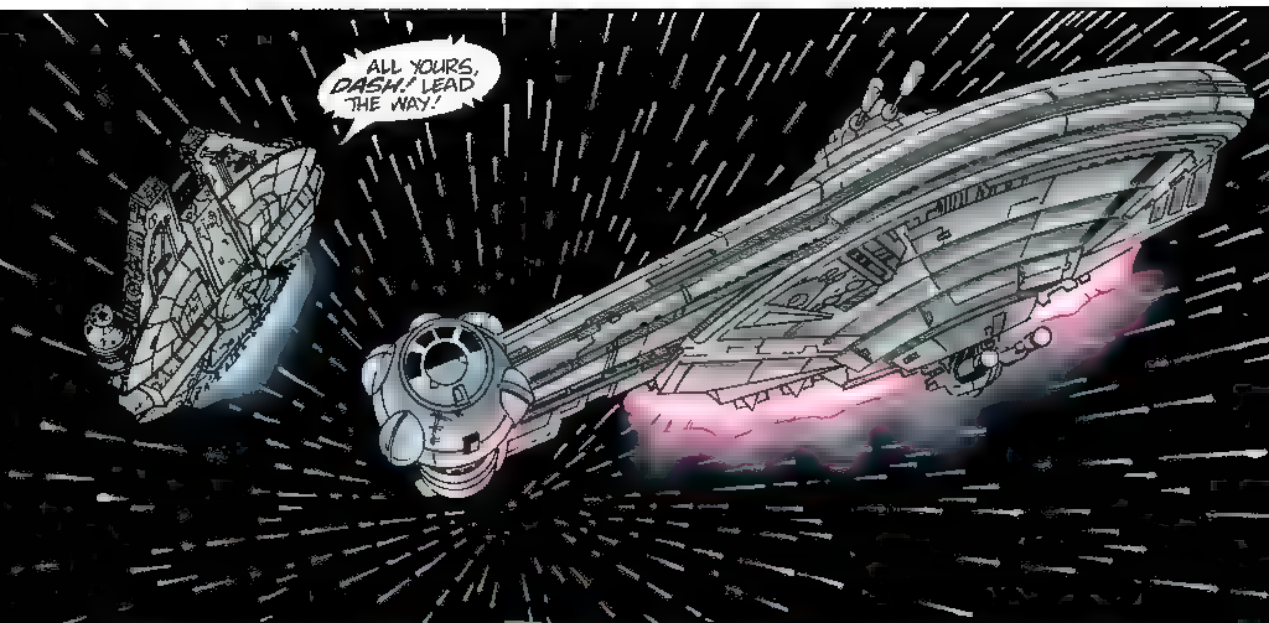
OF COURSE THE PRINCESS LOVES HAN, CHEWIE. WE ALL LOVE HIM.

SURE--IN OUR OWN DIFFERENT WAYS!

TIME TO PART COMPANY, LUKE! HAPPY HUNTING!

BE CAREFUL, LANDO! MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU!





"IF ANYONE CAN GET US TO BOBA FETT, HE CAN--"

YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO ME?

GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT, FETT. TAKE A SEAT

GET TO THE POINT, ZUCKUSS! I HAVE BETTER THINGS TO DO WITH MY TIME!

THE POINT IS COOPERATION! YOU HAVE SOLO, WE WANT HIM!

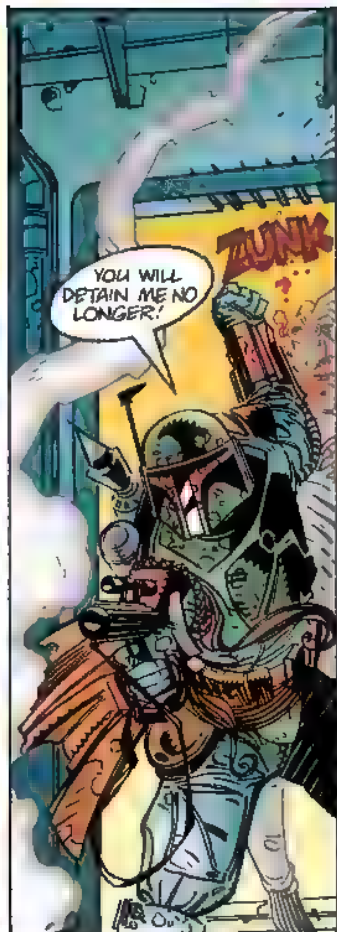
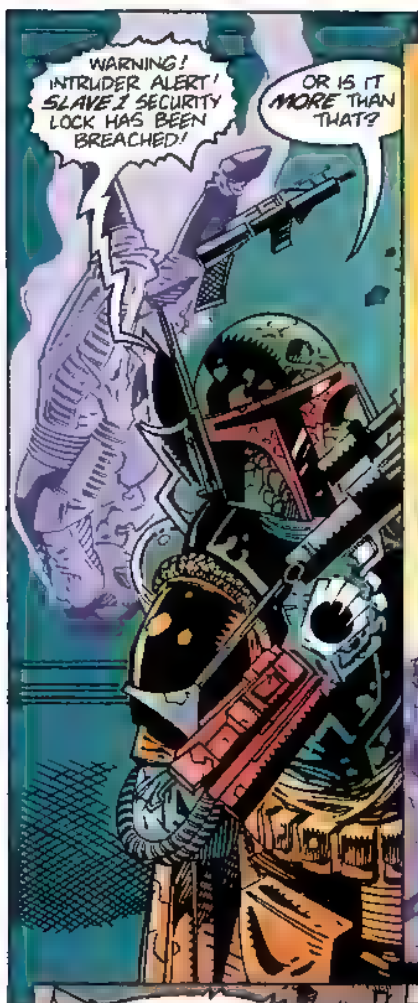
WHAT BOSSK MEANS IS, IT'S A BIG REWARD. THERE'S PLENTY FOR EVERYONE.

WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME BUSINESS, FETT. THINK HOW MUCH EASIER IT WOULD BE IF WE WORKED TOGETHER-- SHARED THE RESPONSIBILITY.

CLICK

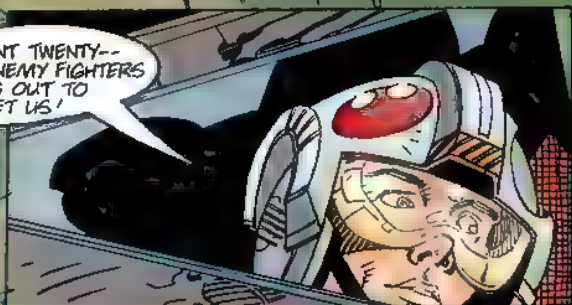
I SEE-- YOU WANT TO CUT YOURSELVES IN ON THE BOUNTY?



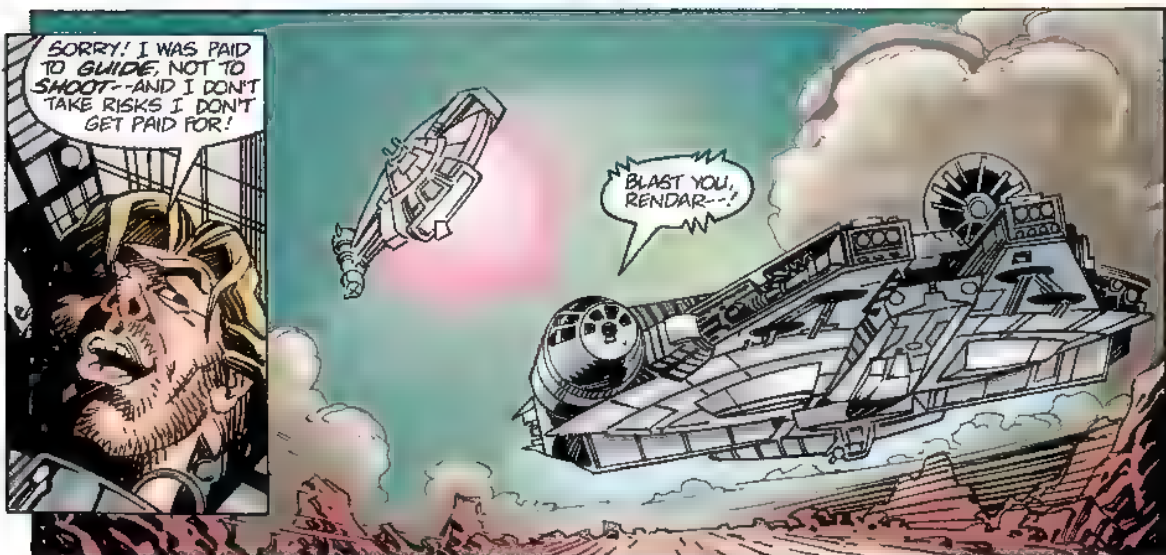
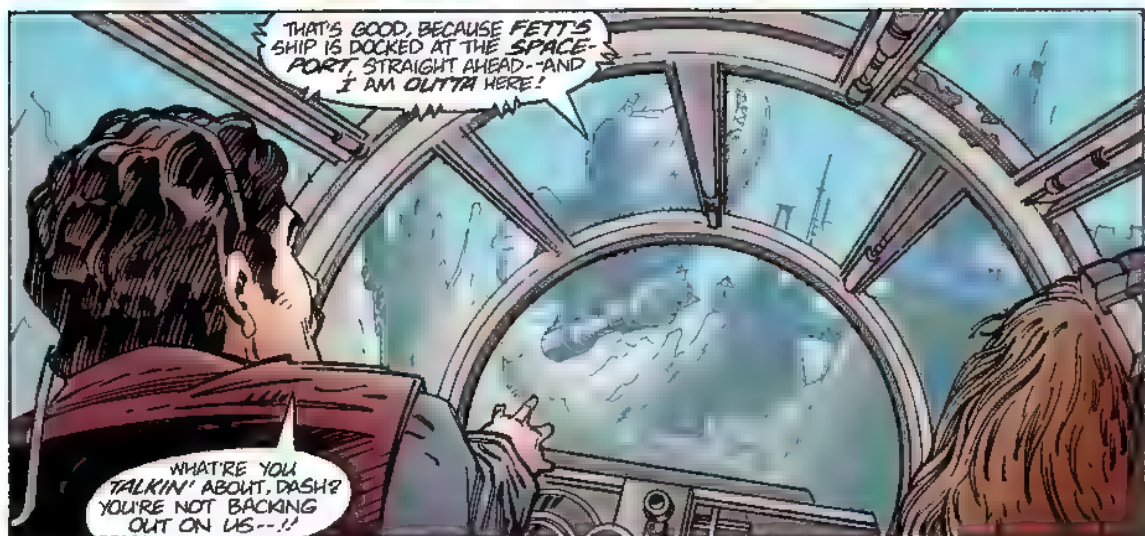
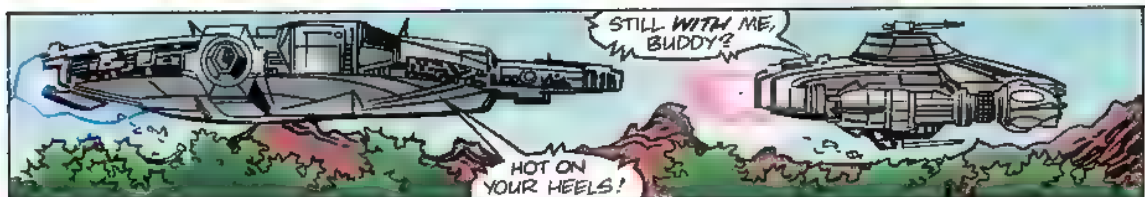
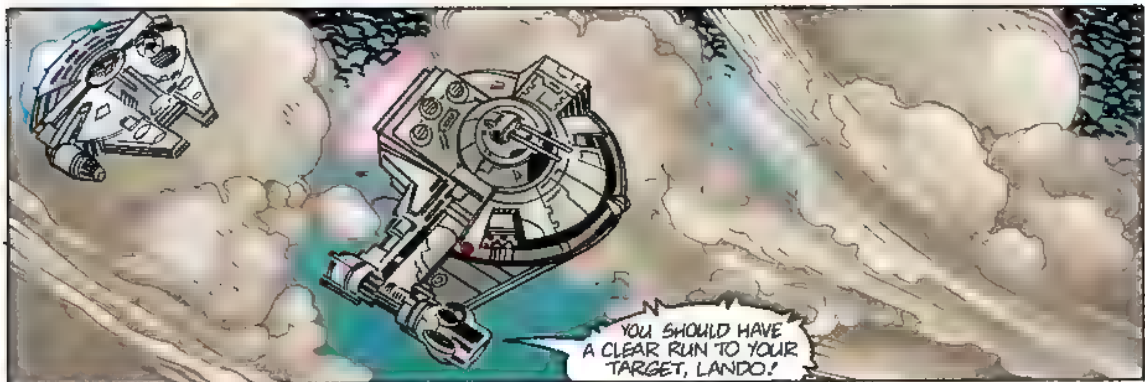


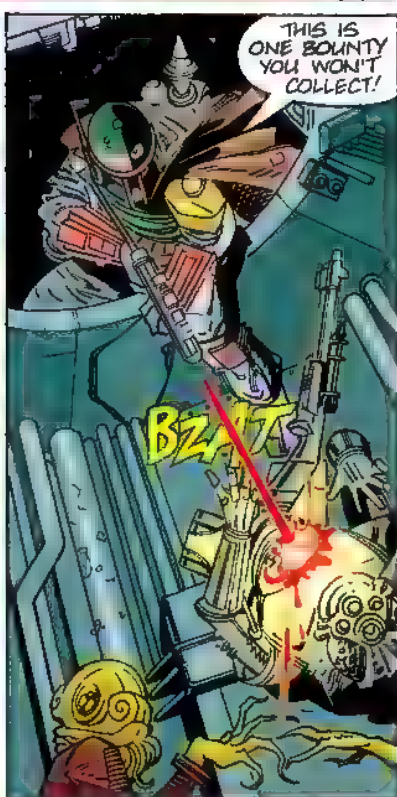
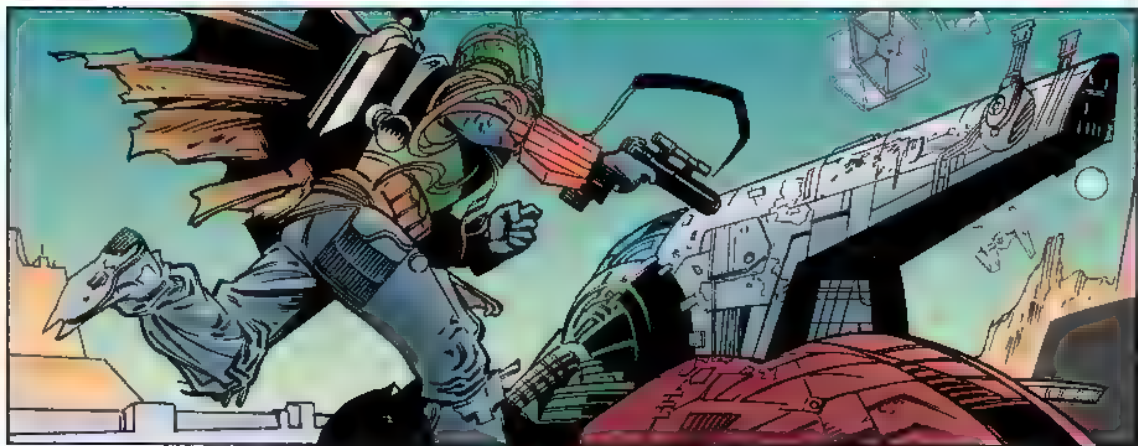
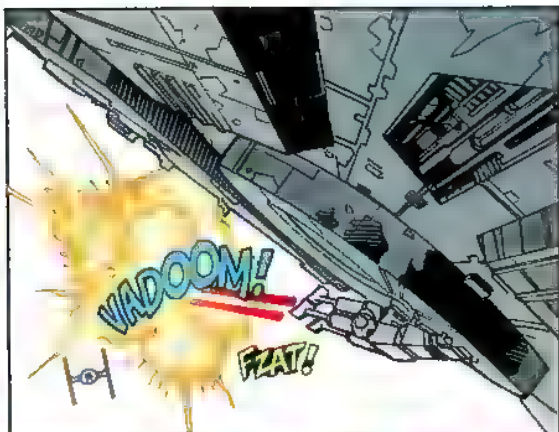
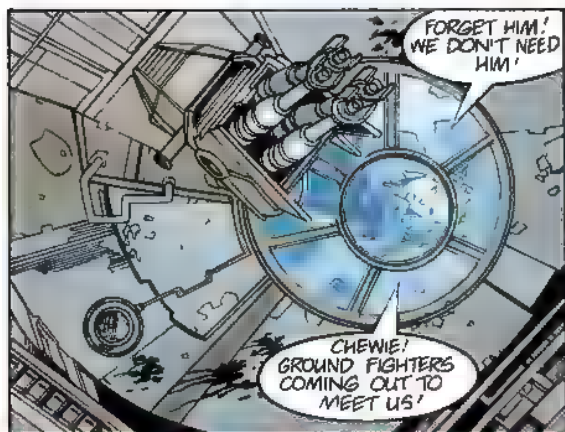


THE IMPERIAL
CRUISER IS UNDER
ATTACK!!



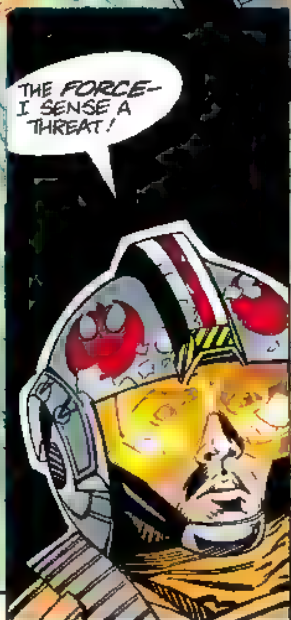
I COUNT TWENTY--
THIRTY ENEMY FIGHTERS
COMING OUT TO
MEET US!



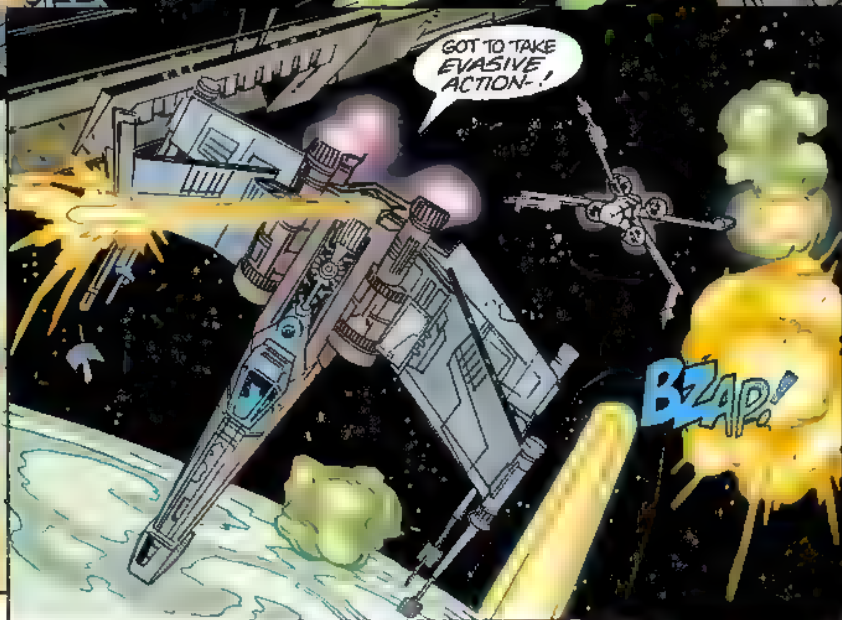




THEY'VE GOT MORE
FIREPOWER THAN WE
RECKONED ON, LUKE!
THESE ODDS ARE BE-
GINNING TO STINK!



THE FORCE-
I SENSE A
THREAT!



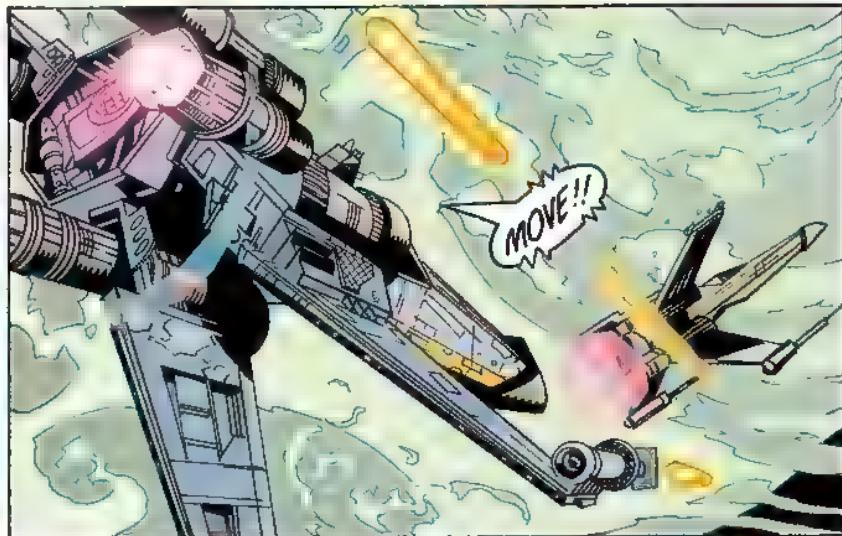
GOT TO TAKE
EVASIVE
ACTION-!

BZAP!

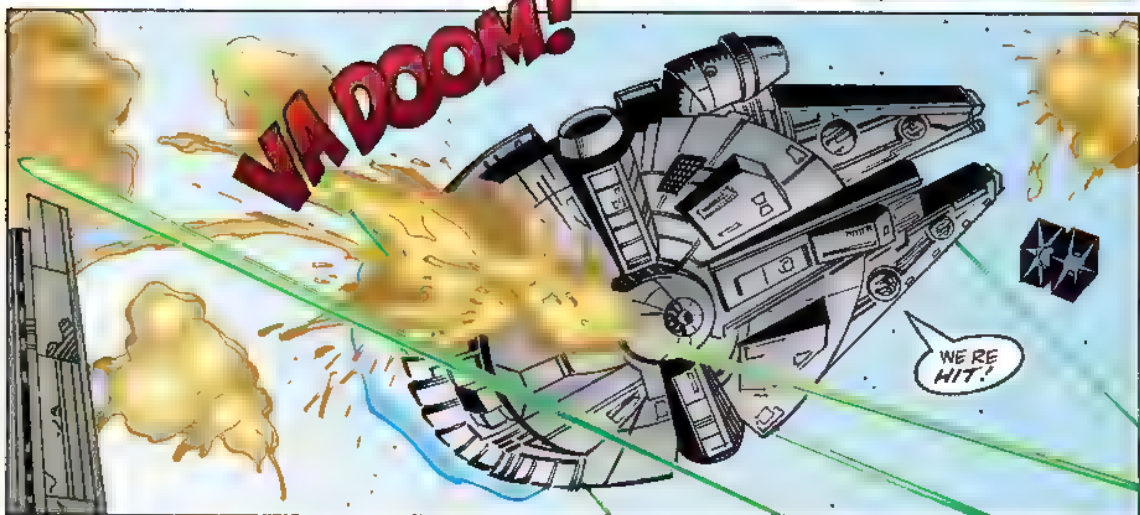
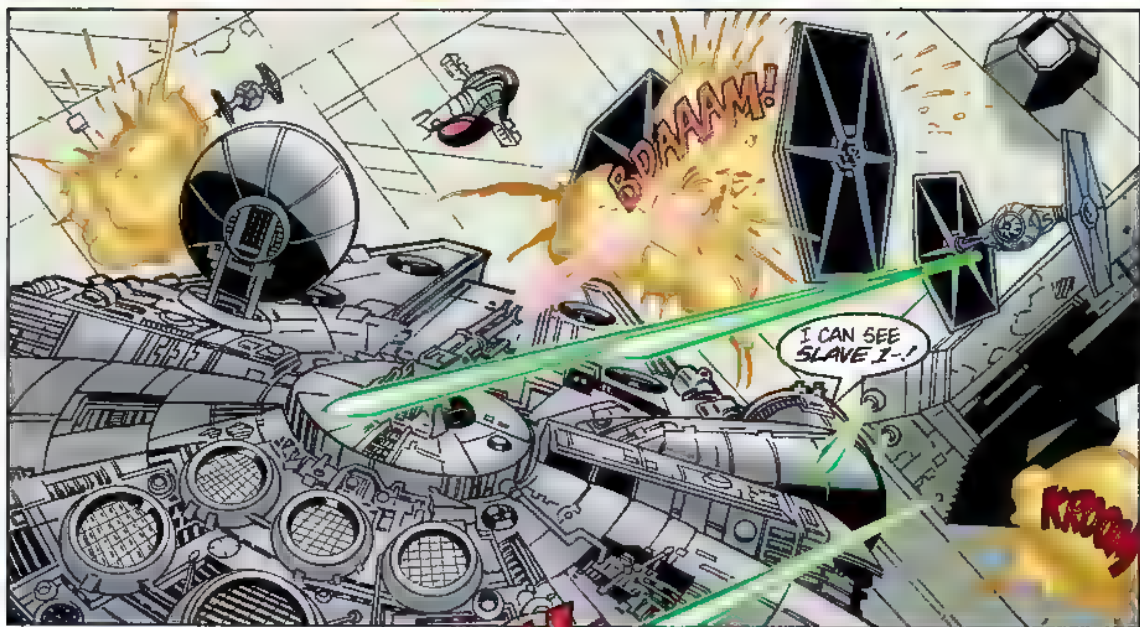
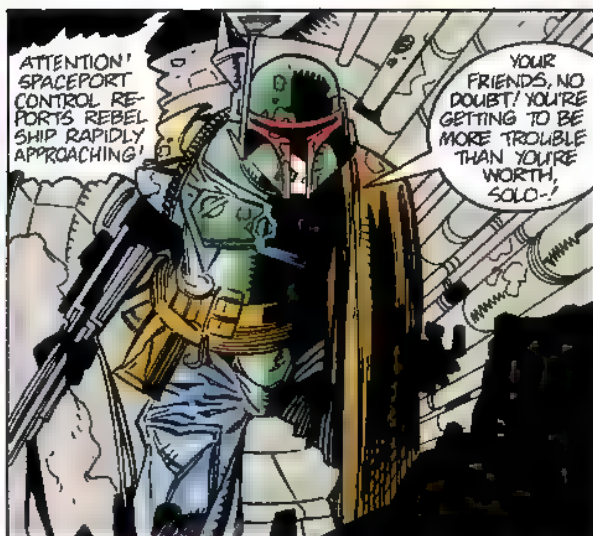
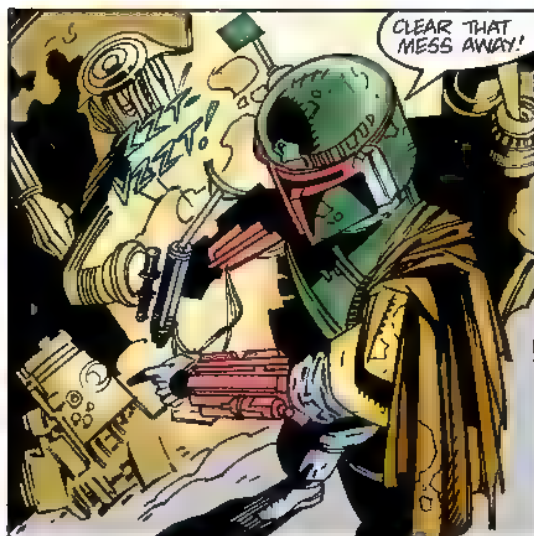


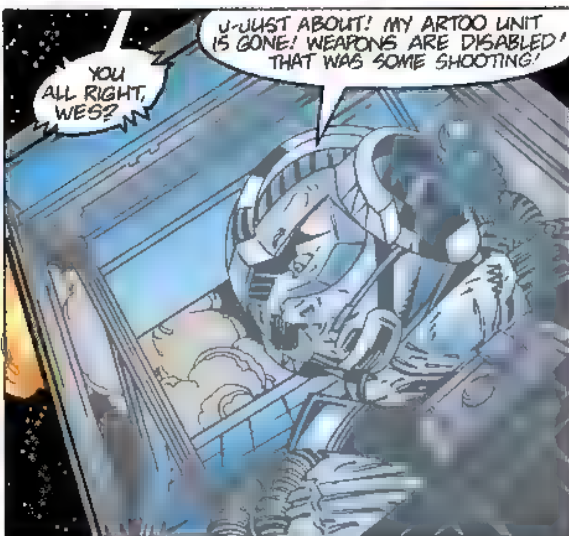
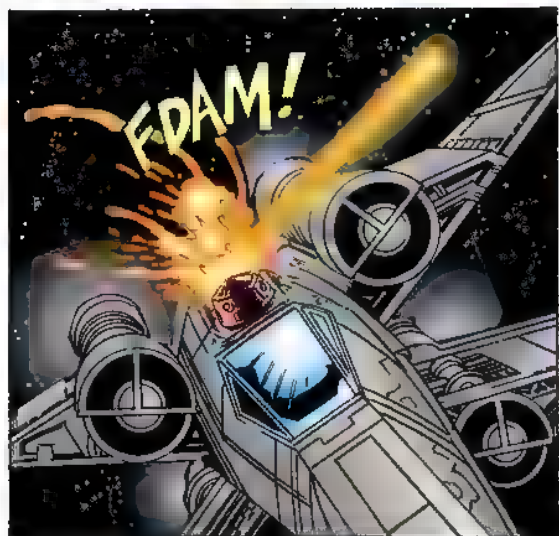
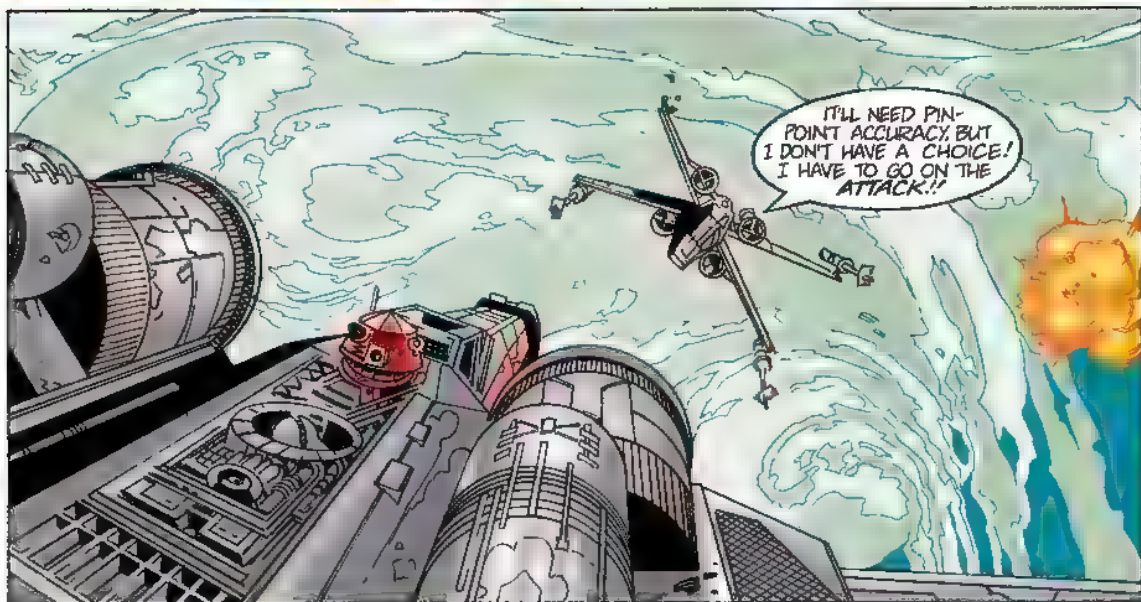
ROGUE SIX!
WHAT'RE YOU
DOING-?

SOMETHING'S
GONE WRONG WITH MY
COMPUTER, LUKE!
I CAN'T CONTROL IT!
IT'S TARGETING
ON YOU-!



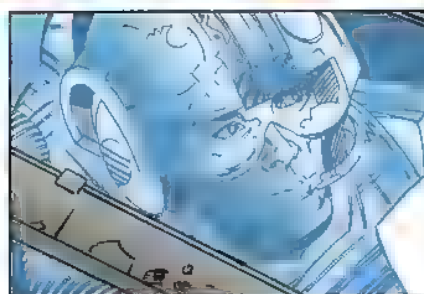
MOVE!!







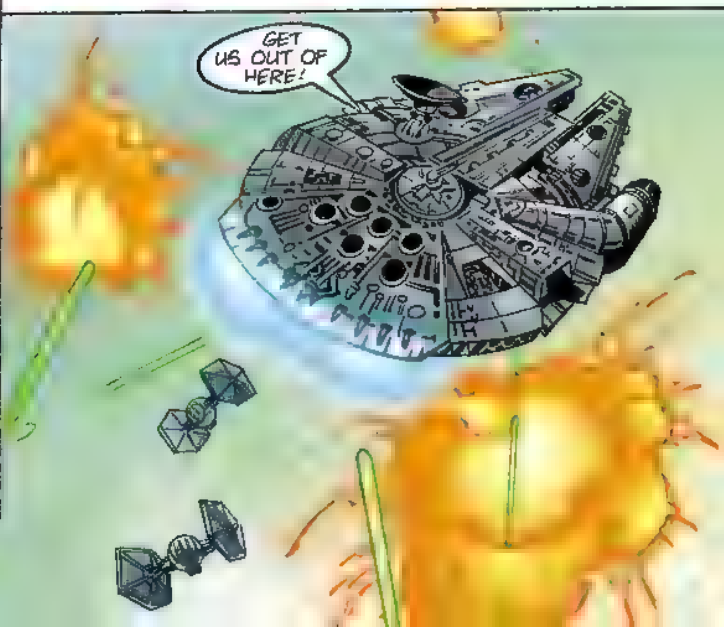
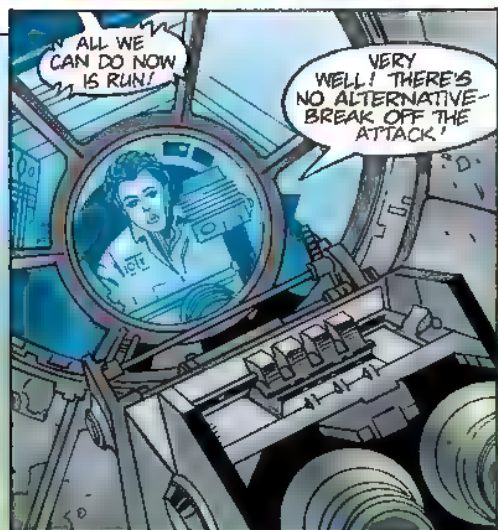
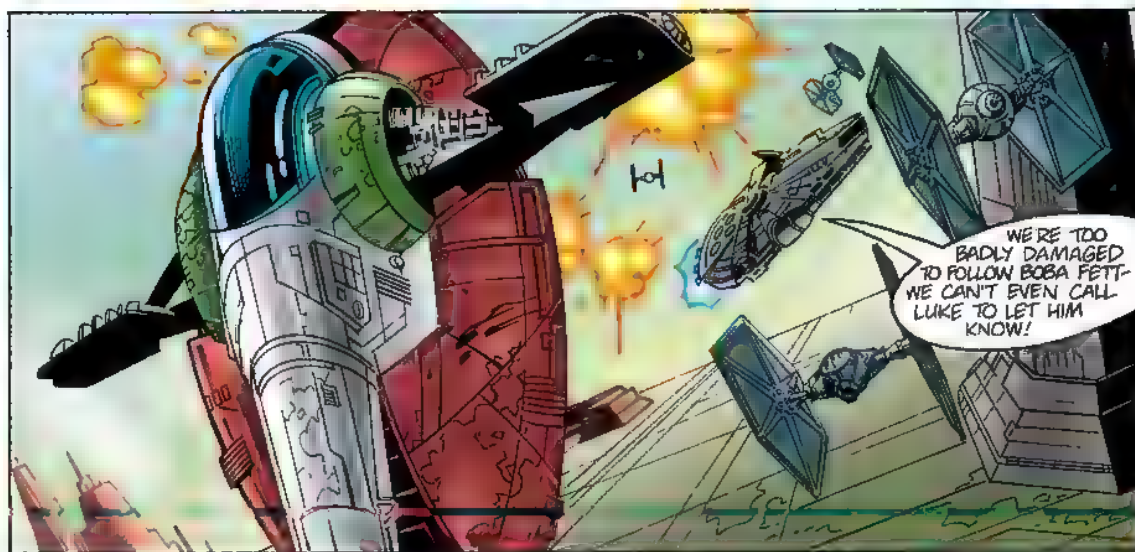
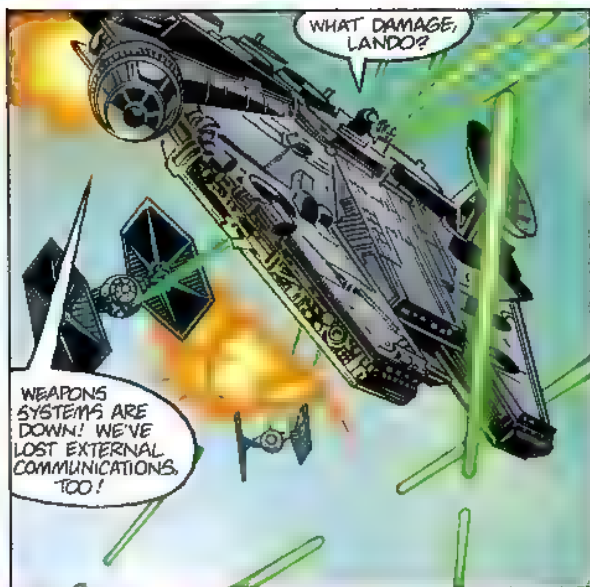
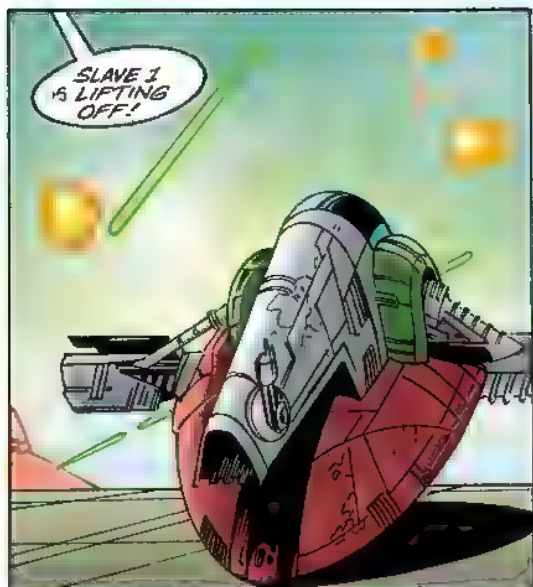
THIS IS A BATTLE
WE CAN'T WIN, LUKE!
IT'S TIME TO GO!

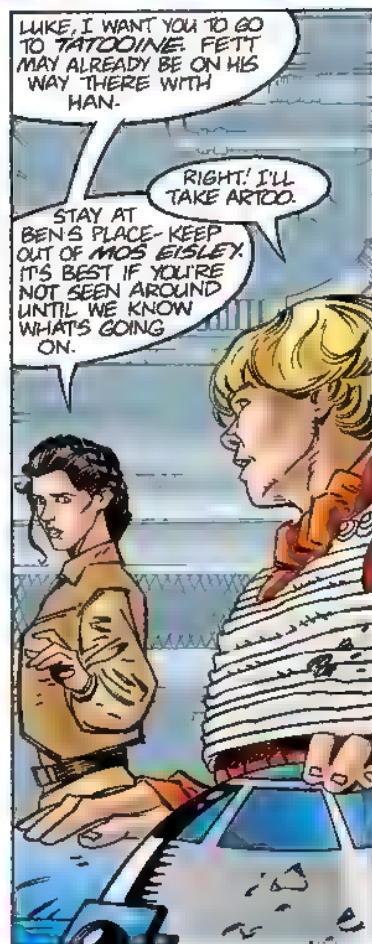
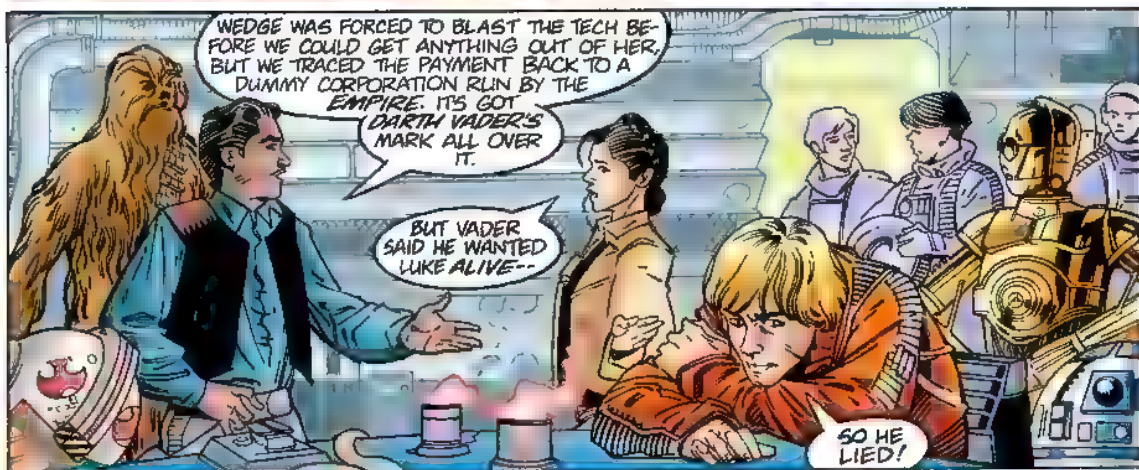


I HOPE WE'VE BOUGHT LANDO
ENOUGH TIME! OKAY, WEDGE,
GIVE THE ORDER.

BOOM!

ROGUE
SQUADRON-CUT
AND RUN!







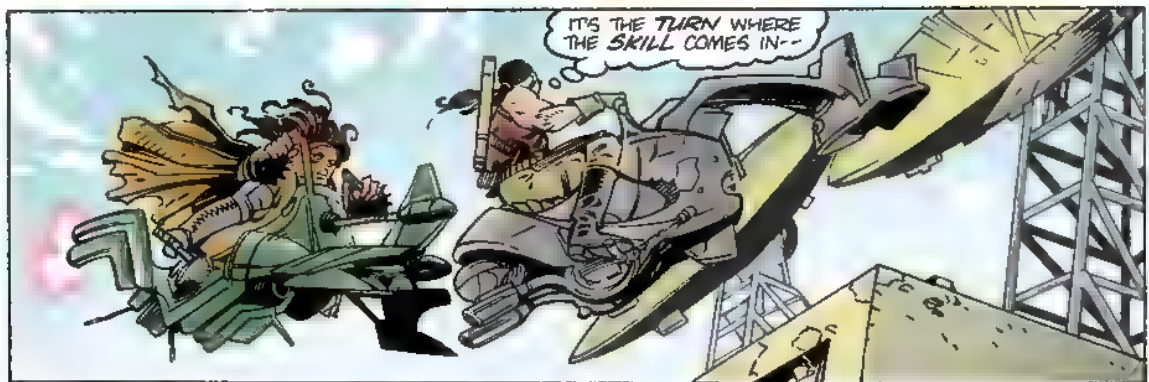
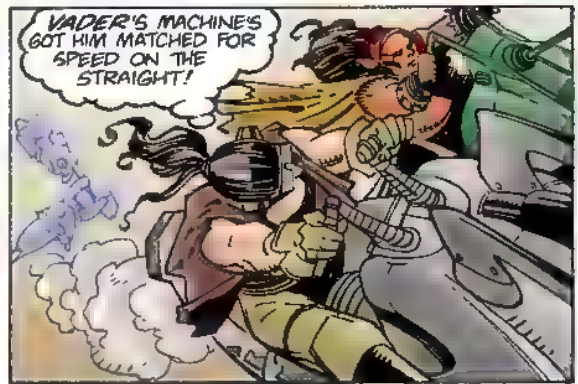
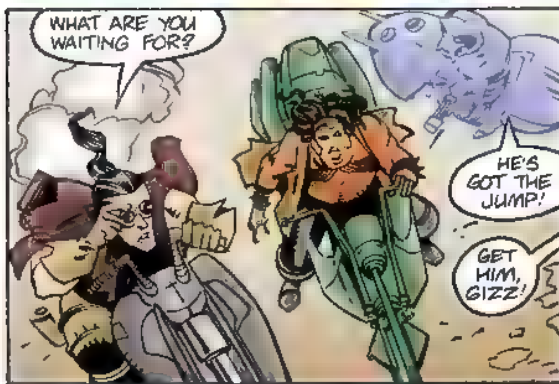
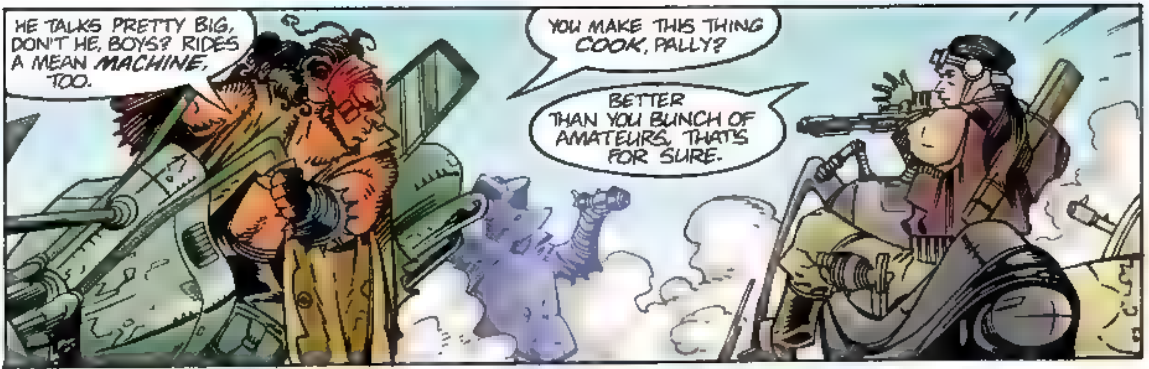


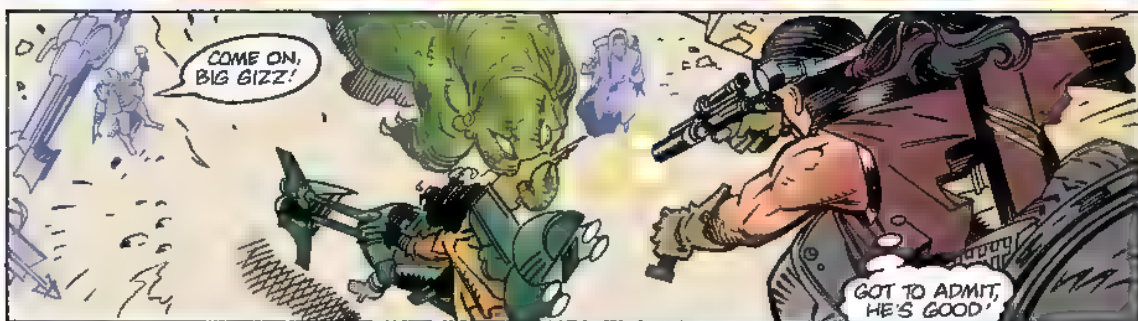
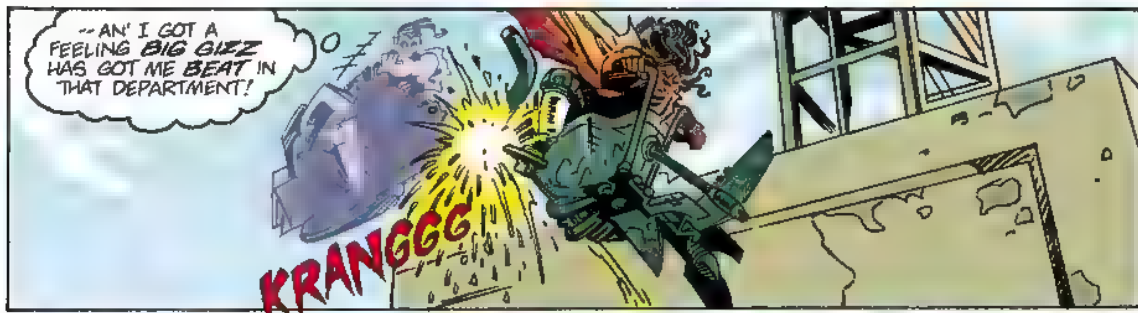
KILL HIM!

DID YOUR
MOMMY EVER TELL YOU
YOU WERE GONNA DIE
SUDDEN, PAL?

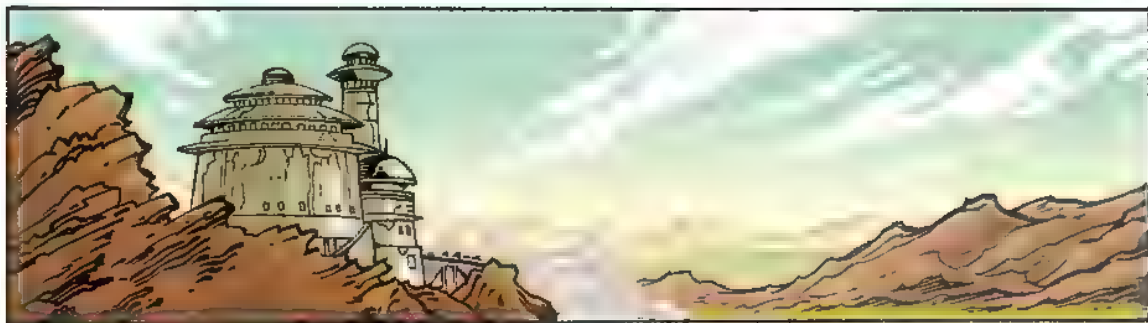
THE NAME'S JIX.
REMEMBER IT.

EVEN IF YOUR
PALS NAIL ME, IT'S GOING
TO BE THE **LAST NAME**
YOU HEAR.









IT IS CUSTOMARY
TO LEAVE THE SWOOP
BIKES AT THE DOOR,
GIZMAN

IF YOU AND YOUR
DEGENERATE FRIENDS
WERENT USEFUL TO ME, YOU'D
MAKE A WONDERFUL MEAL
FOR MY DEAR RANCOR!

RANCOR
FOOD! HAH
HAHAHA!





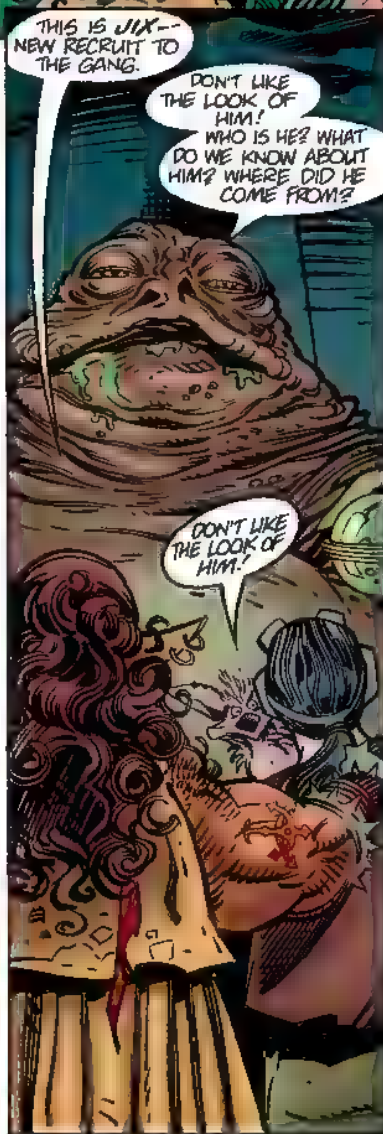
JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS, JABBA-- YOU SAID COME IMMEDIATELY!

IMMEDIATELY AFTER BREAKFAST WOULD HAVE SUFFICED. YOU'LL TRY MY PATIENCE TOO FAR ONE DAY.



AND WHO IS THAT?

I DON'T RECOGNIZE THAT FACE! YOU-- COME HERE!



THIS IS JIX-- NEW RECRUIT TO THE GANG.

DON'T LIKE THE LOOK OF HIM!

WHO IS HE? WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT HIM? WHERE DID HE COME FROM?

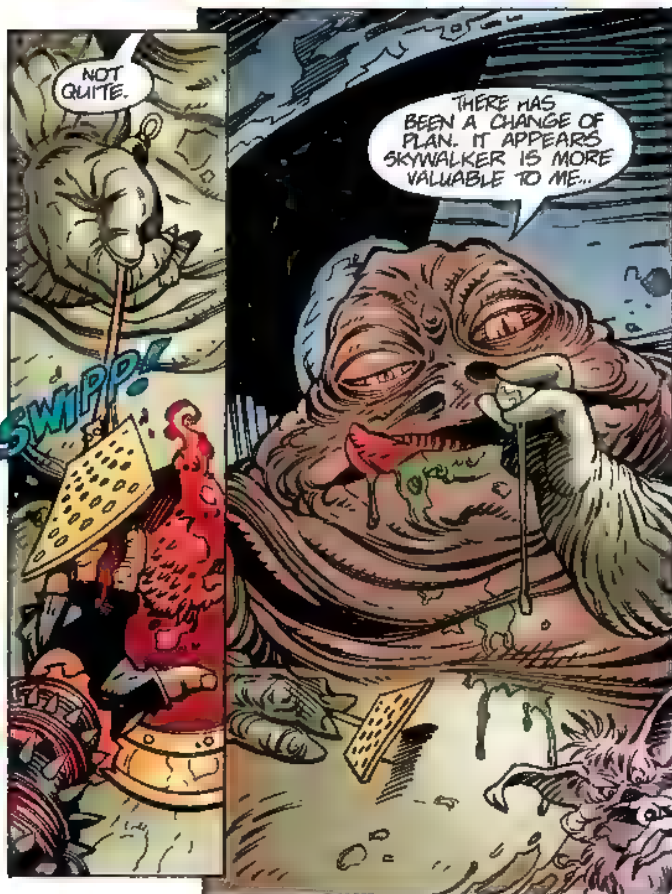
DON'T LIKE THE LOOK OF HIM!

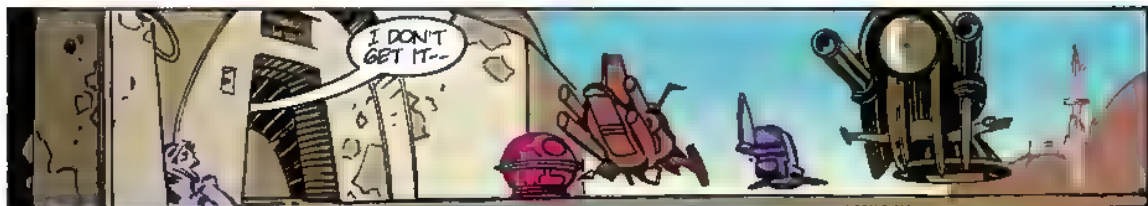


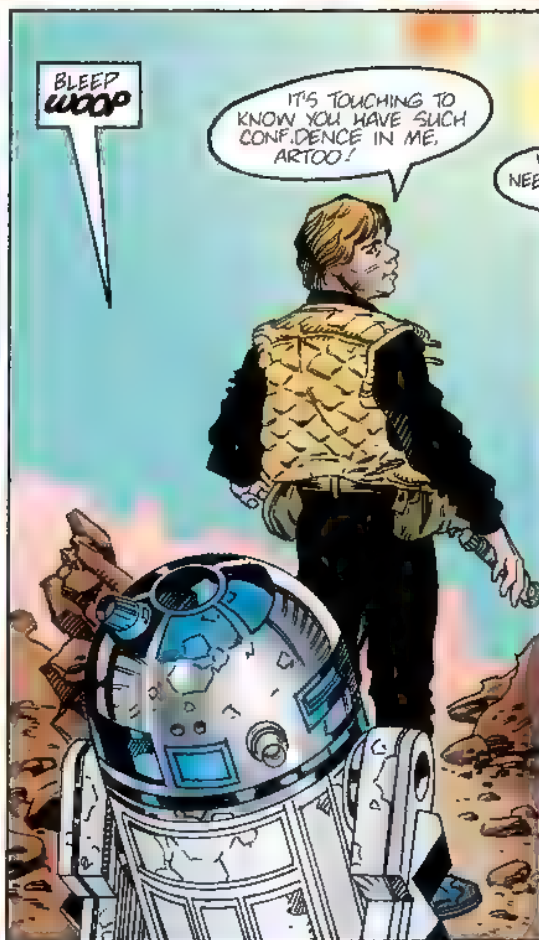
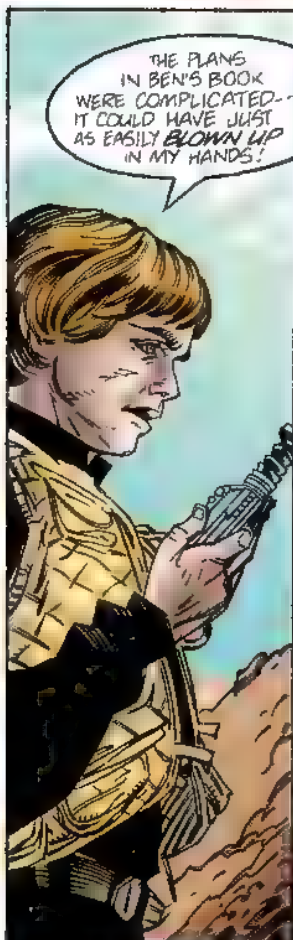
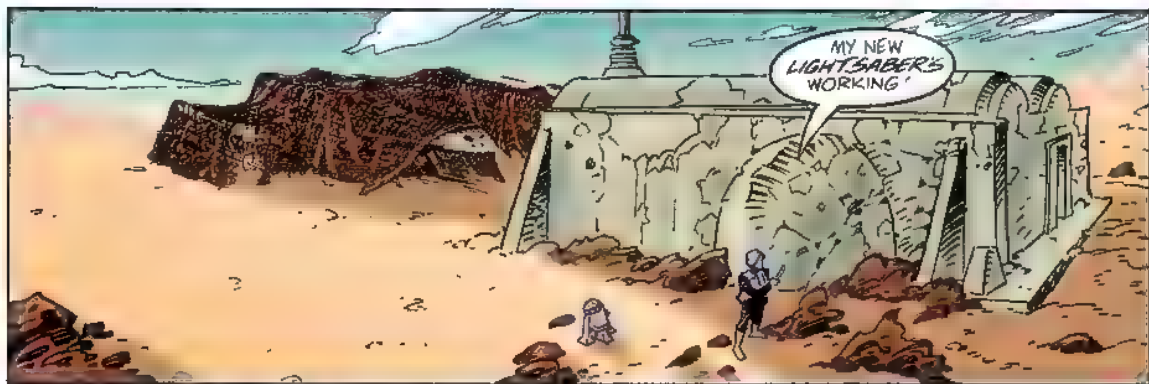
I WAS JUST DRIFTING THROUGH. BIG GIZZ OFFERED ME WORK-- IT SOUNDED LIKE FUN.

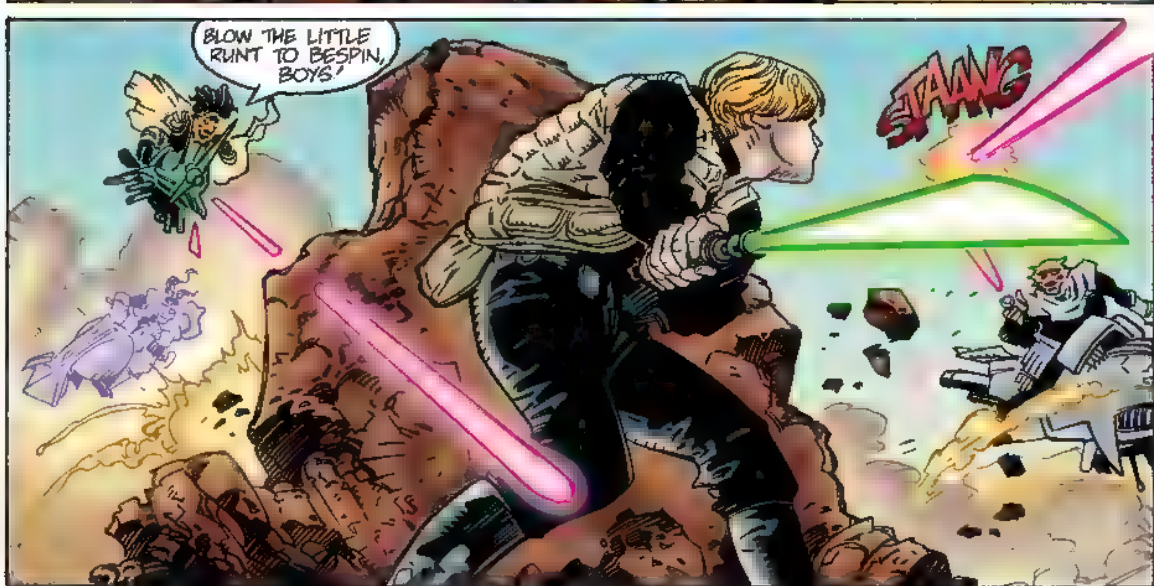
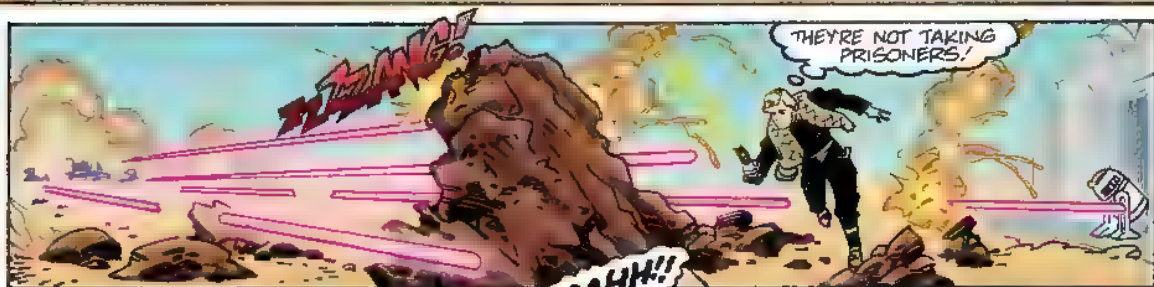
BUT IF YOU DON'T WANT ME, FINE. I'LL JUST KEEP ON DRIFTING. CAN'T SAY I LIKE THE LOOK OF YOU THAT MUCH, EITHER.

HEY, COME ON, JABBA. I'LL VOUCH FOR HIM! JIX IS A GOOD GUY--



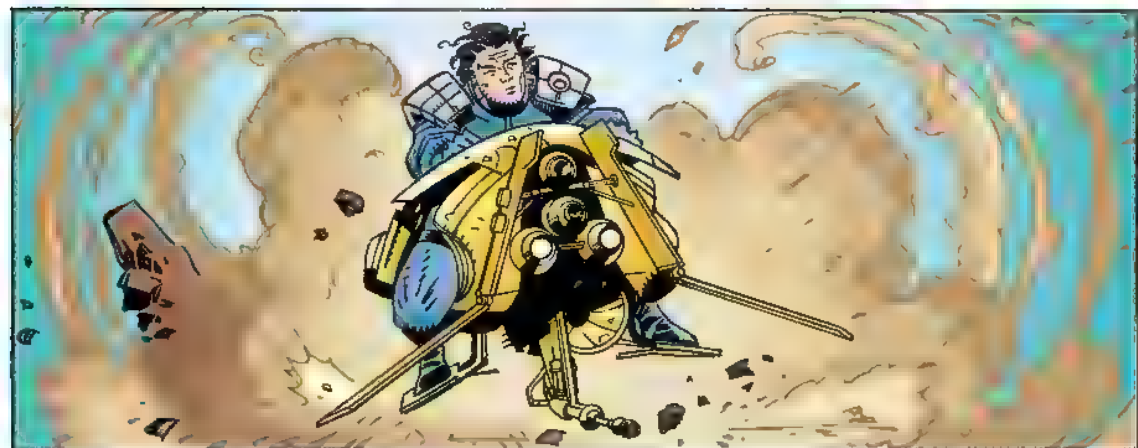
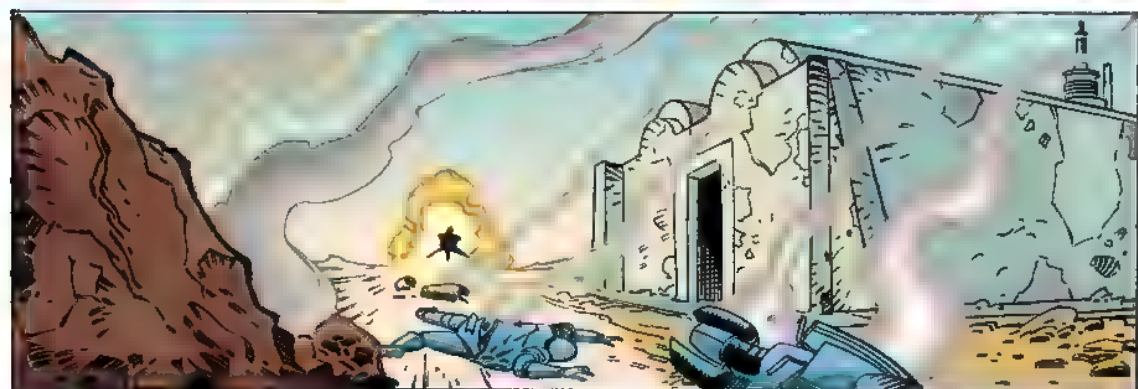
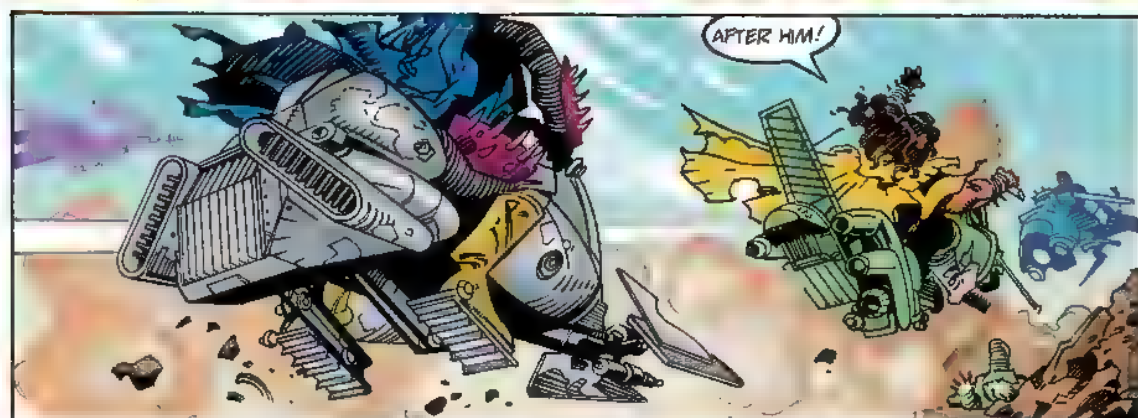
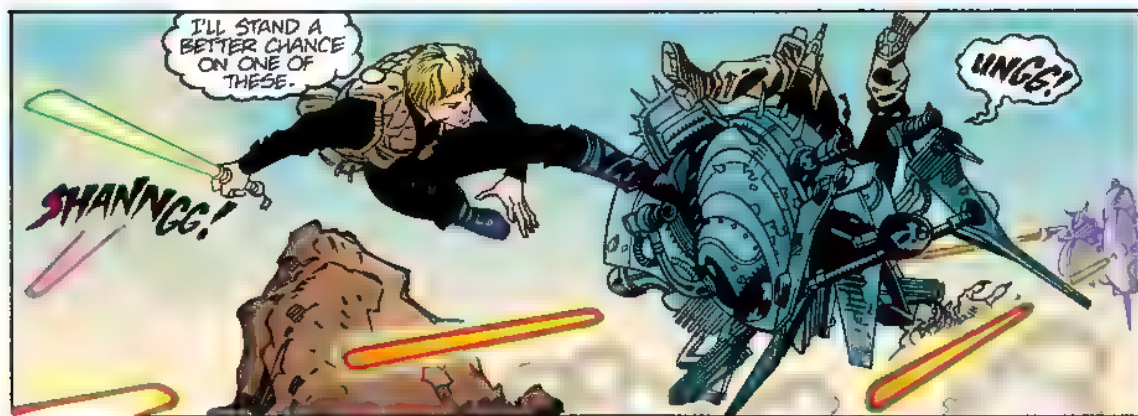


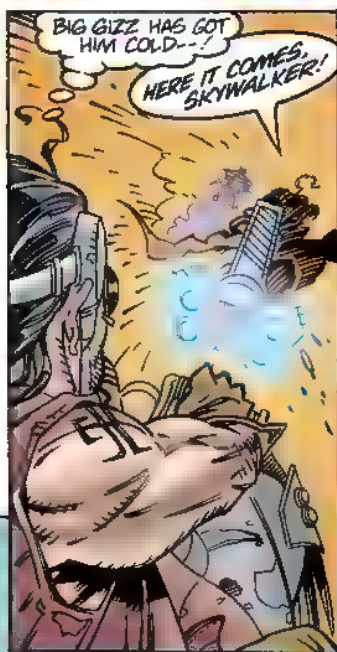
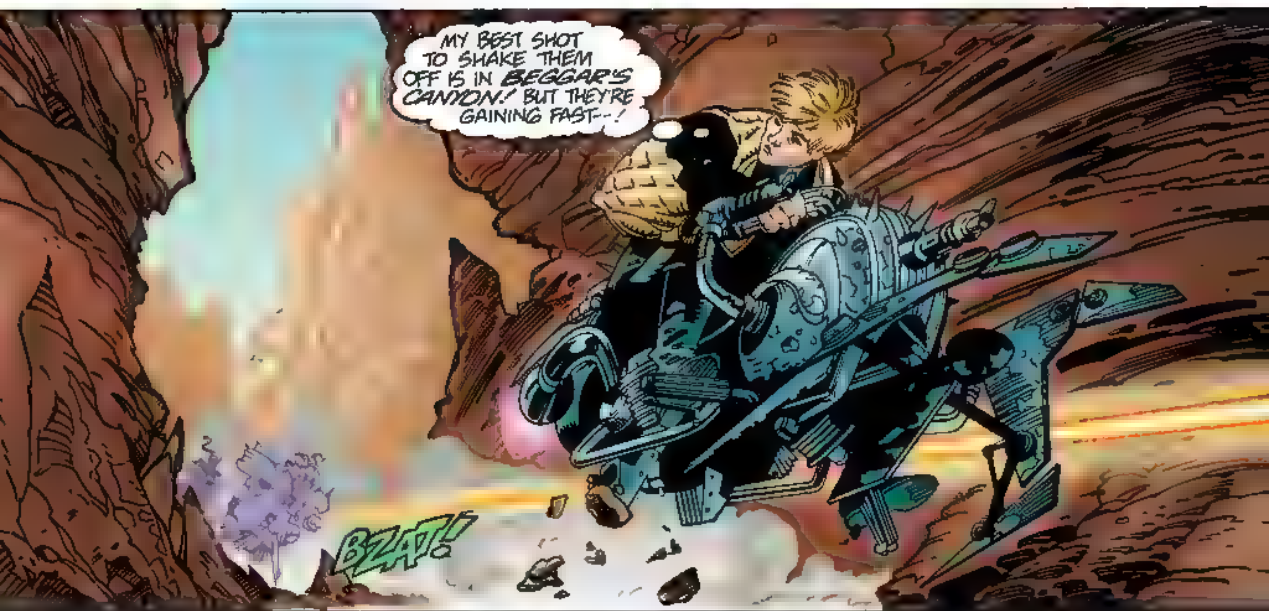




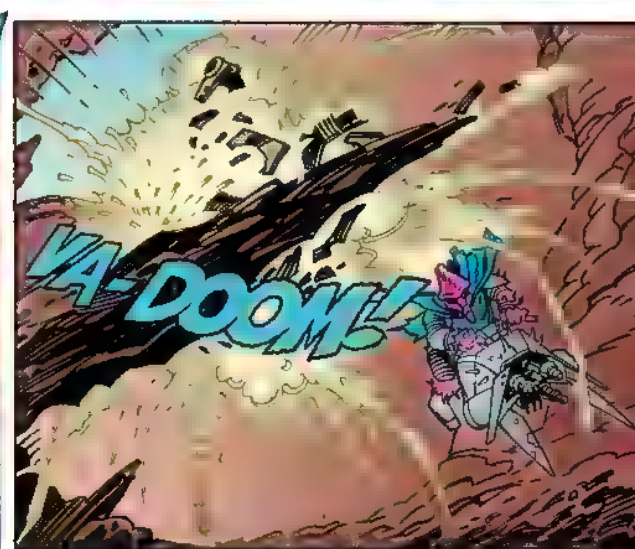
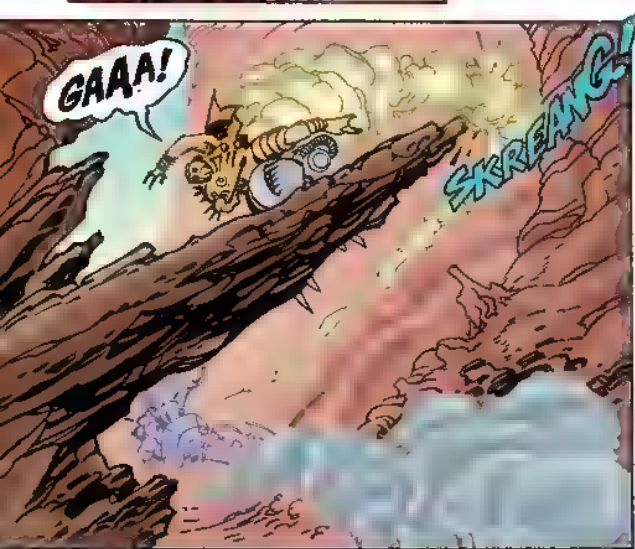
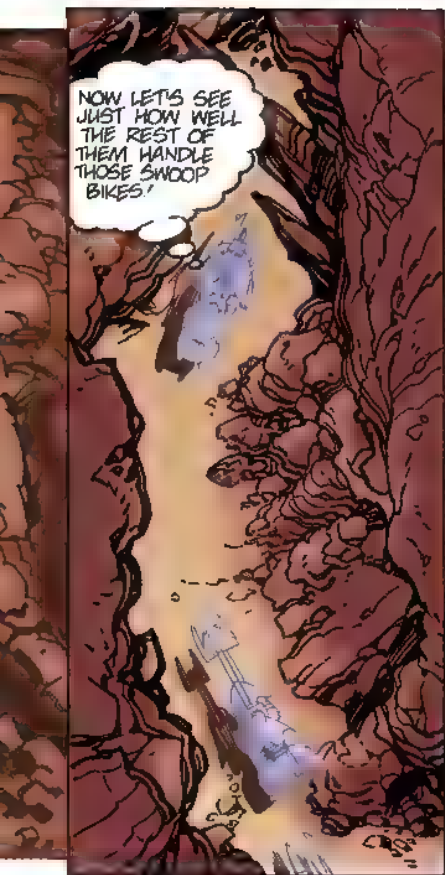
I WANTED
A TEST FOR MY
LIGHTSABER--I
DIDN'T RECKON ON
GETTING ONE
SO SOON!



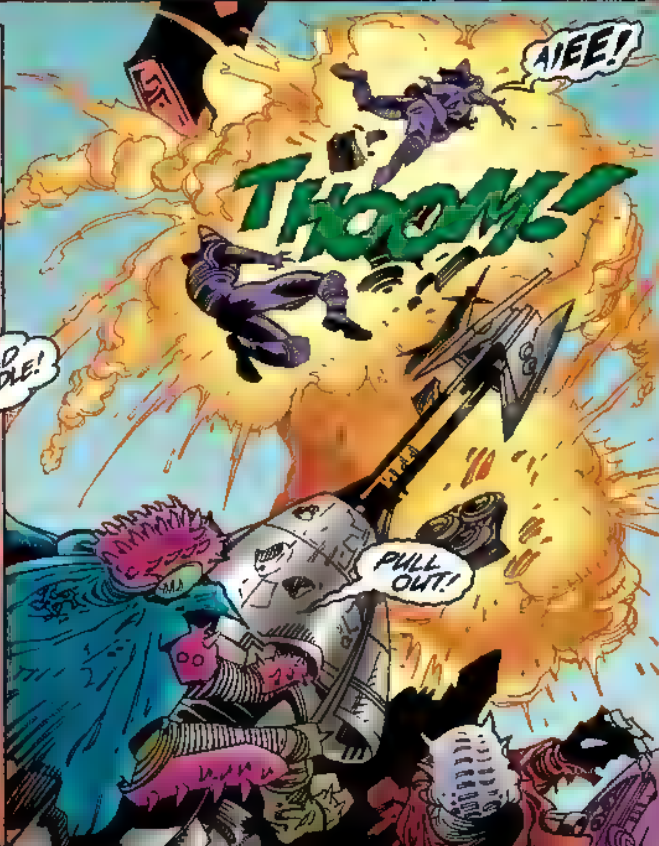
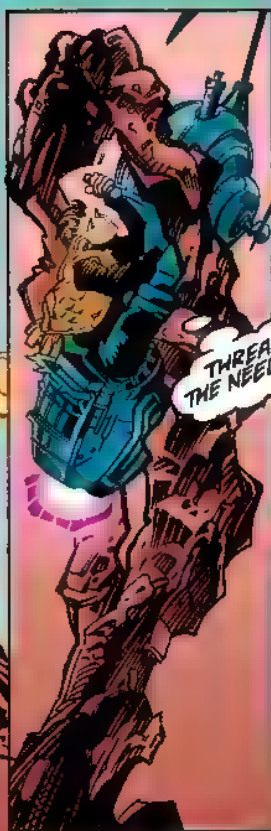
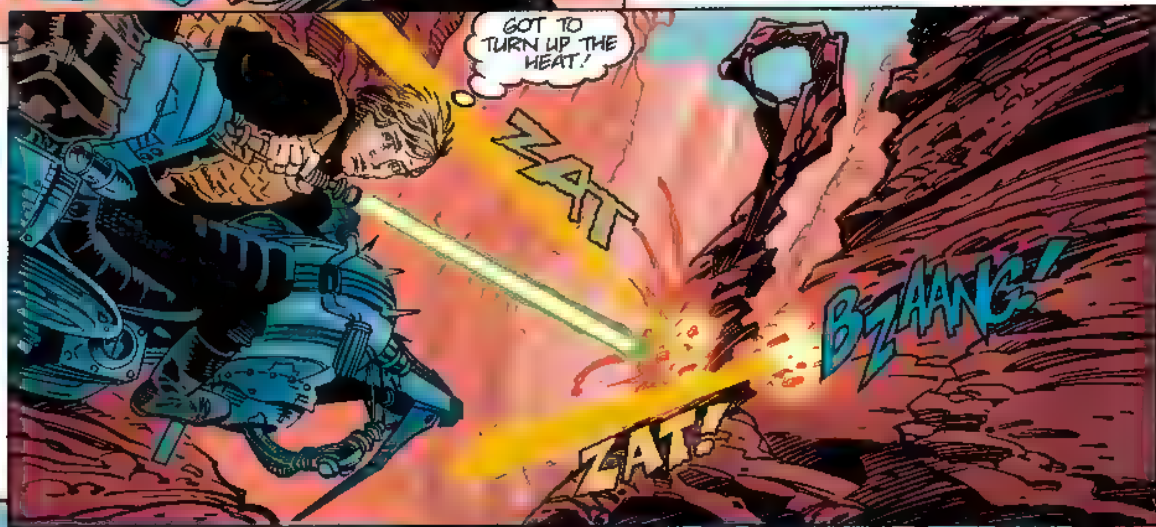
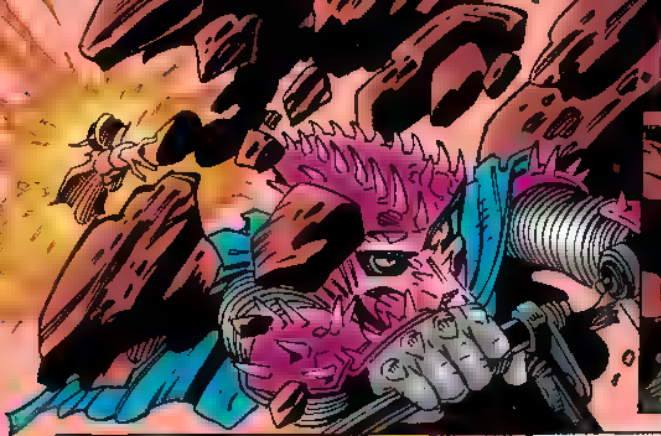


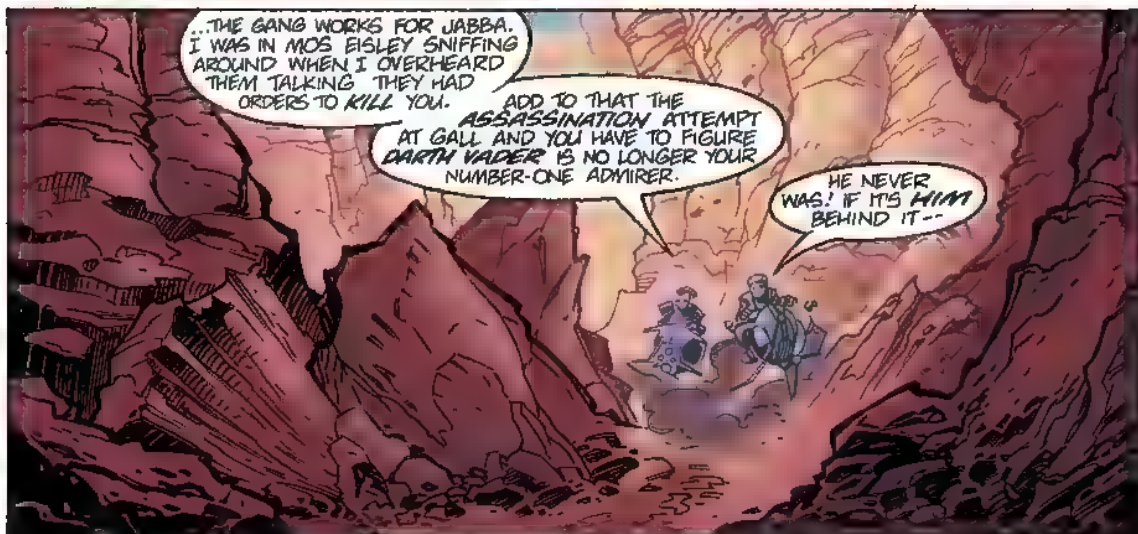
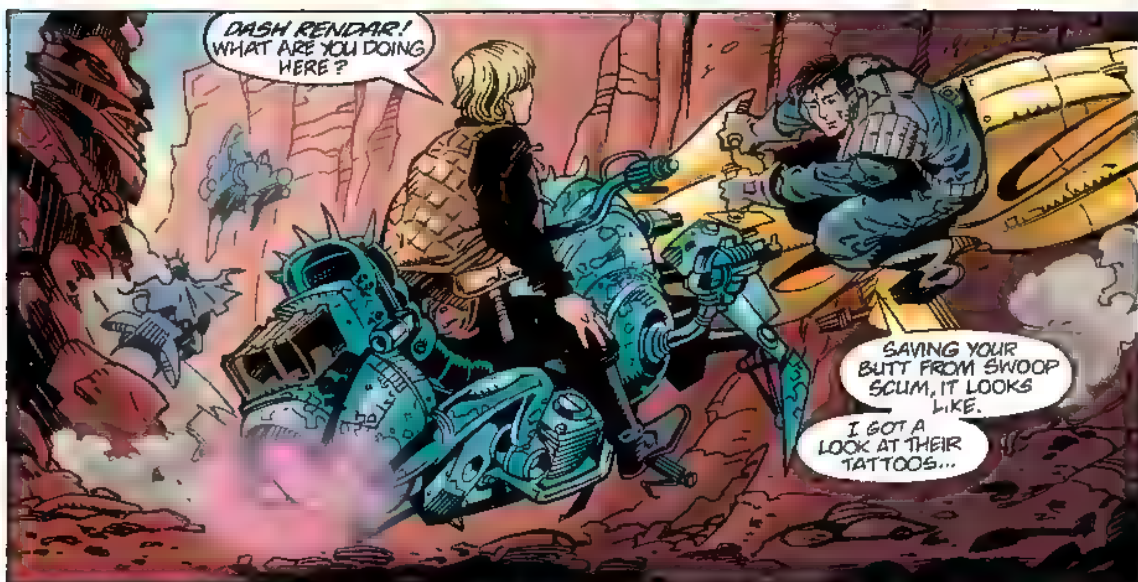


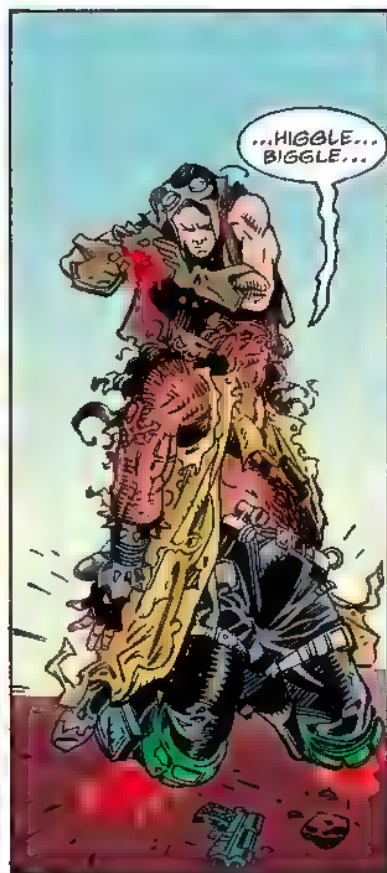
NOW LET'S SEE
JUST HOW WELL
THEY HANDLE
THOSE SWOOP
BIKES!

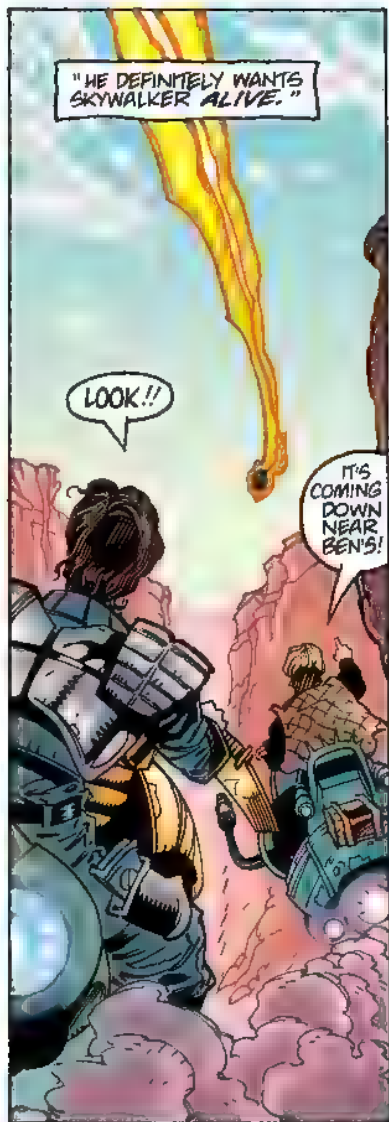


SKERRRAKKK





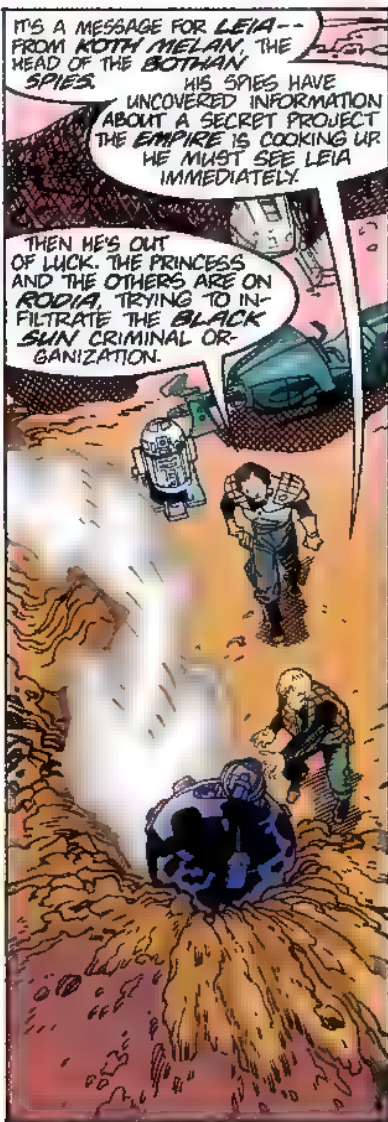




"HE DEFINITELY WANTS SKYWALKER ALIVE."

LOOK!!

IT'S COMING DOWN NEAR BEN'S!



IT'S A MESSAGE FOR LEIA-- FROM KOTH MELAN, THE HEAD OF THE BOTHAN SPIES. HIS SPIES HAVE UNCOVERED INFORMATION ABOUT A SECRET PROJECT THE EMPIRE IS COOKING UP. HE MUST SEE LEIA IMMEDIATELY.

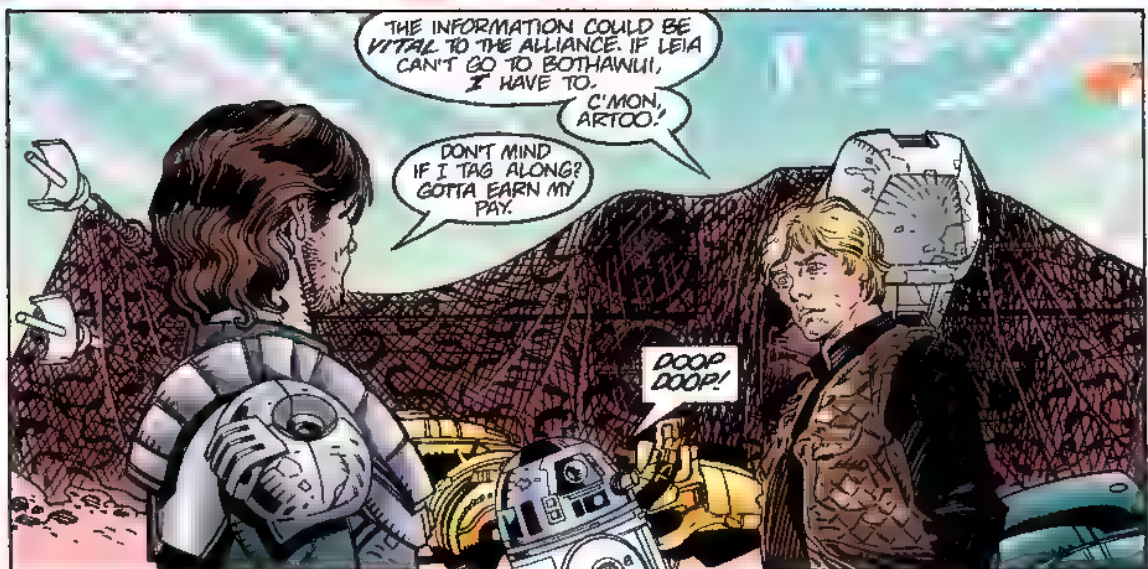
THEN HE'S OUT OF LUCK. THE PRINCESS AND THE OTHERS ARE ON RODIA, TRYING TO INFILTRATE THE BLACK SUN CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION.



BLACK SUN! IS SHE OUT OF HER MIND?

SOMEONE'S TRYING TO HAVE YOU KILLED, LUKE. SHE'S LOOKING FOR ANSWERS. BLACK SUN'S SPY NETWORK CAN PROVIDE THEM.

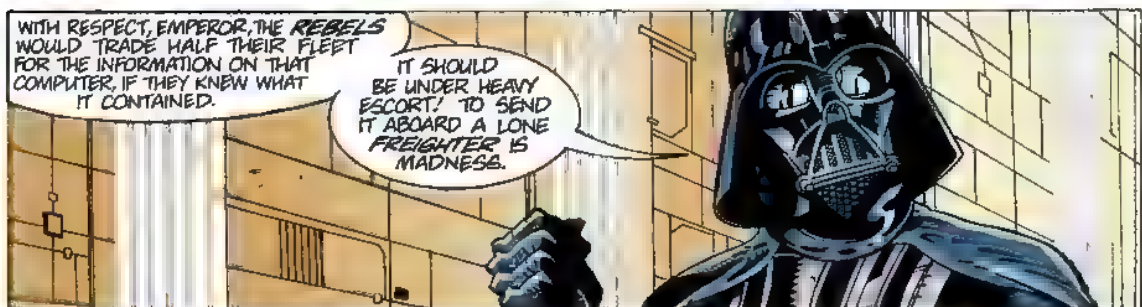
THEY'LL PROVIDE MORE THAN THAT IF THEY CATCH HER! AND SHE THINKS I NEED HELP!



THE INFORMATION COULD BE VITAL TO THE ALLIANCE. IF LEIA CAN'T GO TO BOTHANUI, I HAVE TO. C'MON, ARTOO!

DON'T MIND IF I TAG ALONG? GOTTA EARN MY PAY.

DOOP DOOP!



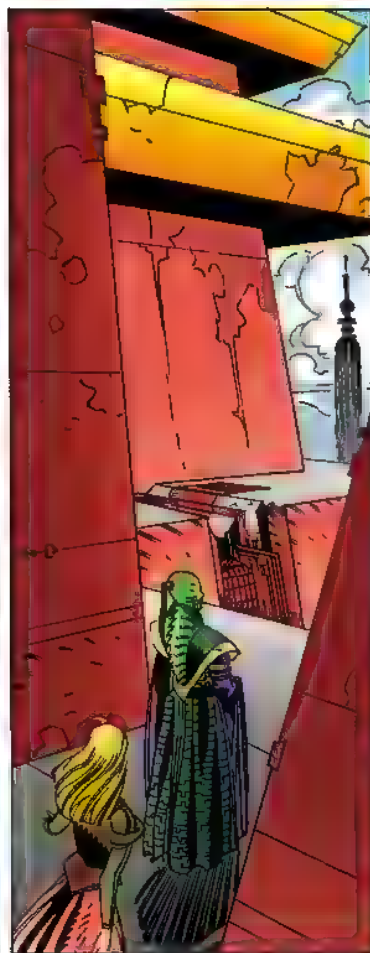


THE PLANS ARE MADE. I SEE NO REASON TO REVISE THEM. YOUR ADVICE HAS NOT BEEN NOTABLY SUCCESSFUL IN OTHER MATTERS OF LATE!

IF YOU PROCEED WITH THIS PLAN IT IS AGAINST MY STERNEST WARNING, EMPEROR!



YOUR OBJECTION IS NOTED. THAT WILL BE ALL, VADER.



LORD VADER WAS MOST UNHAPPY WITH THE EMPEROR'S PLAN. IN THIS CASE, WITH GOOD REASON.

TIME AND ROUTE OF THE FREIGHTER YOU WILL PASS THE INFORMATION TO THE BOTHAN SPIES.

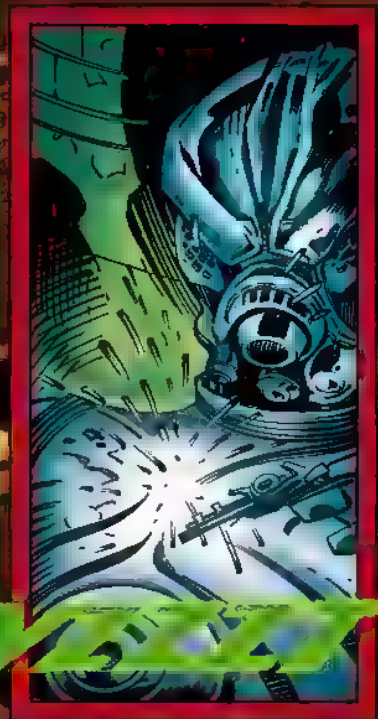
IS THAT WISE, PRINCE XIZOR?

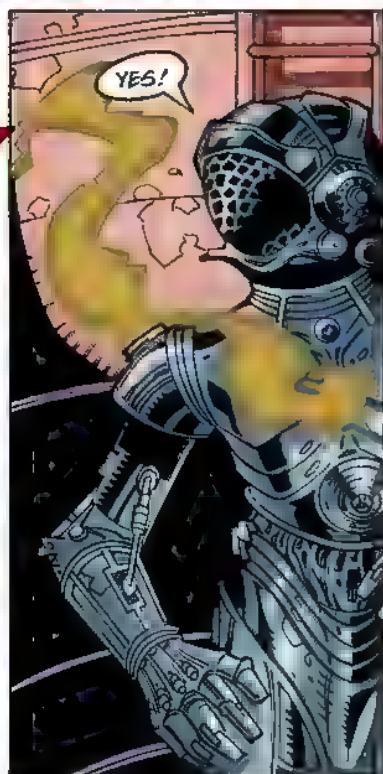


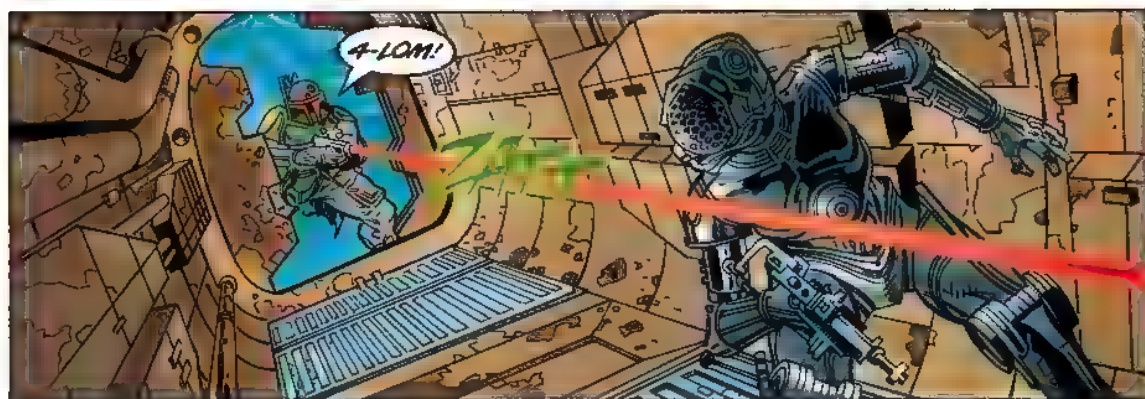
IT IS NOT IN YOUR BEST INTERESTS TO GO AGAINST THE EMPIRE.

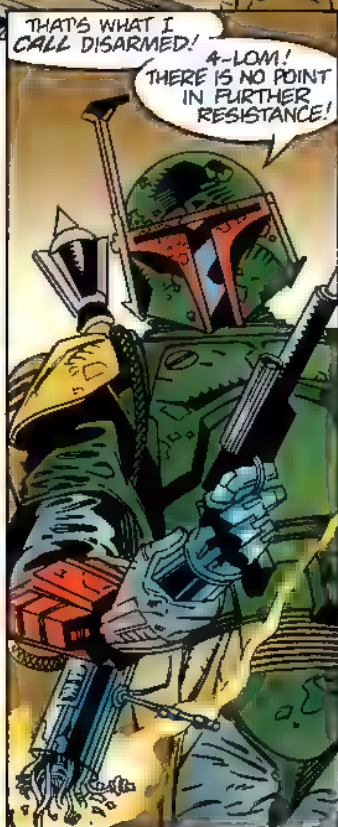
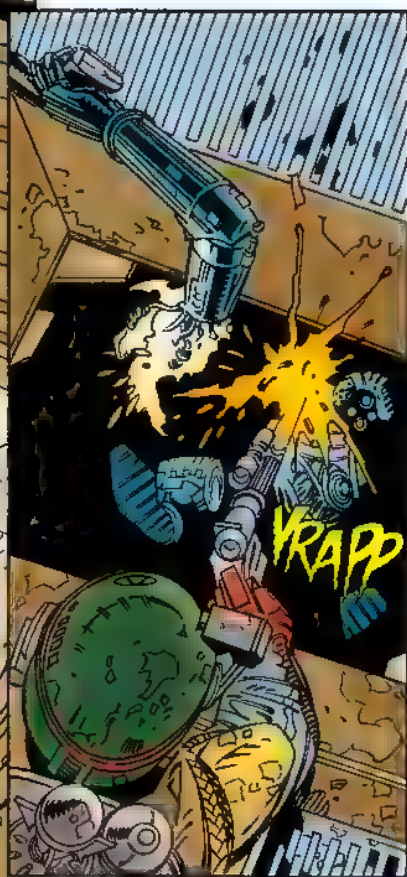
IT IS ALWAYS BEST TO KEEP A FOOT IN BOTH CAMPS, GURI.

IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THE REBELS WIN THIS WAR, THEY WON'T FORGET BLACK SUN'S GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION TO THEIR VICTORY.















BOBA FETT!
THIS IS **BOSSK**!!
THAT WAS JUST A
WARNING SHOT!

YOU ARE IN OUR
SIGHTS AND YOU ARE
POWERLESS! PREPARE
TO BE **BOARDED**!



BOBA FETT!
THIS IS BOSSK!
OUR SHUTTLE IS
NOW LINKING TO
YOUR AIRLOCK

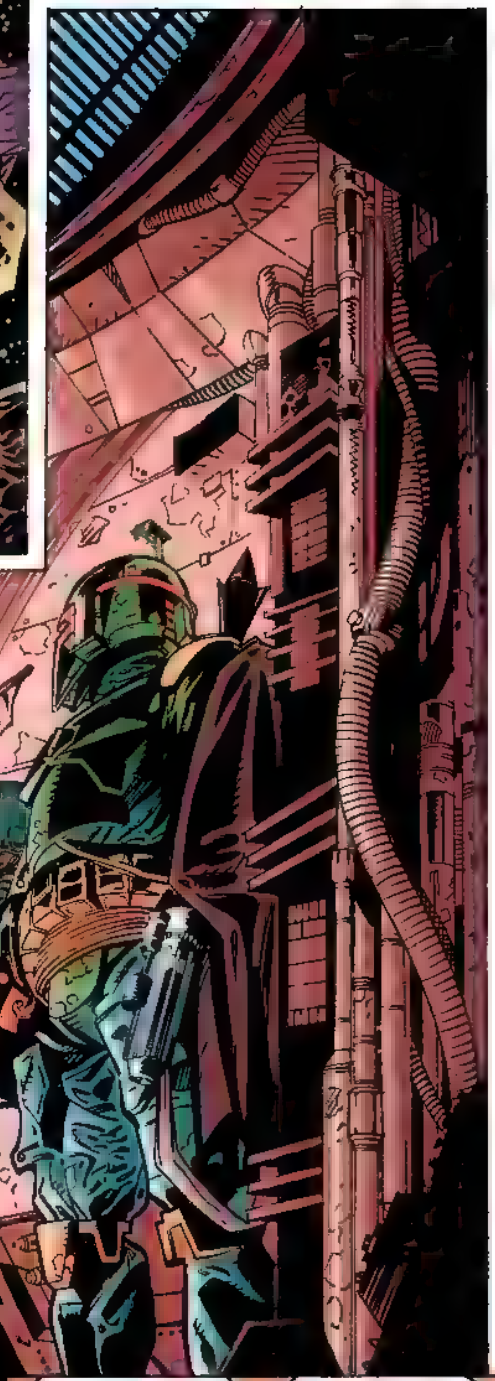
LET ME REMIND YOU,
YOUR WEAPONS SYSTEMS
ARE DISABLED! ANY RE-
SISTANCE WILL RESULT IN
YOUR DESTRUCTION.



AH, THE
PRIZE!

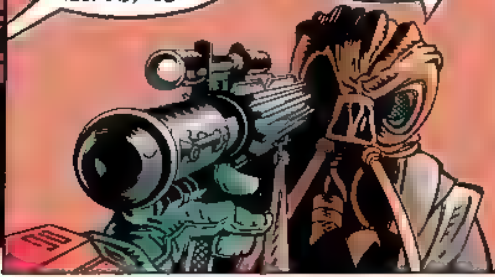
WE'RE ALL
BOUNTY HUNTERS TO-
GETHER, FETT. YOU SHOULD
HAVE ACCEPTED OUR DEAL. THEN
YOU COULD AT LEAST HAVE
SHARED THE REWARD
ON HAN SOLO.

WHAT
MAKES YOU
THINK I'LL SHARE
ANYTHING WITH YOU,
ZUCKUSS?

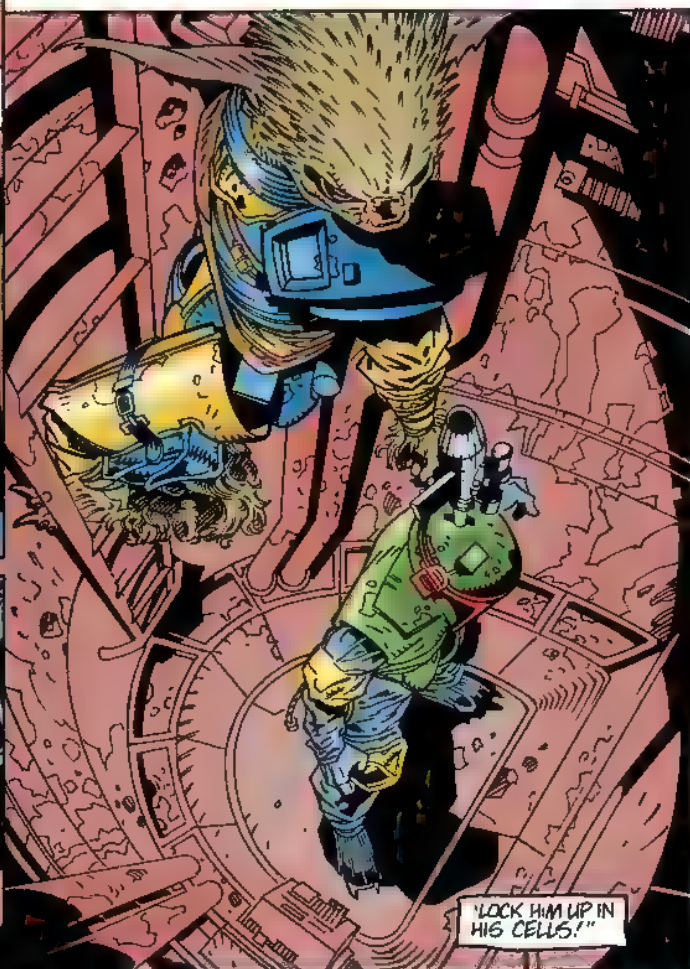
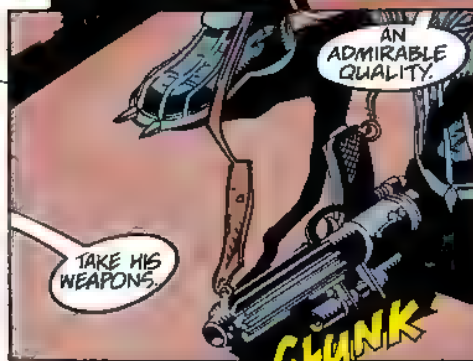


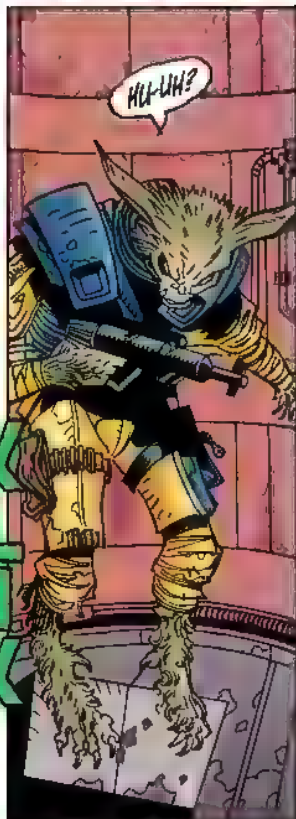
I HAVE HOSTAGES
NOW. IF BOSSK DE-
STROYS SLAVE 1,
YOU DIE, TOO.

YOU THINK OUR
LIVES MEAN ANY-
THING TO BOSSK?

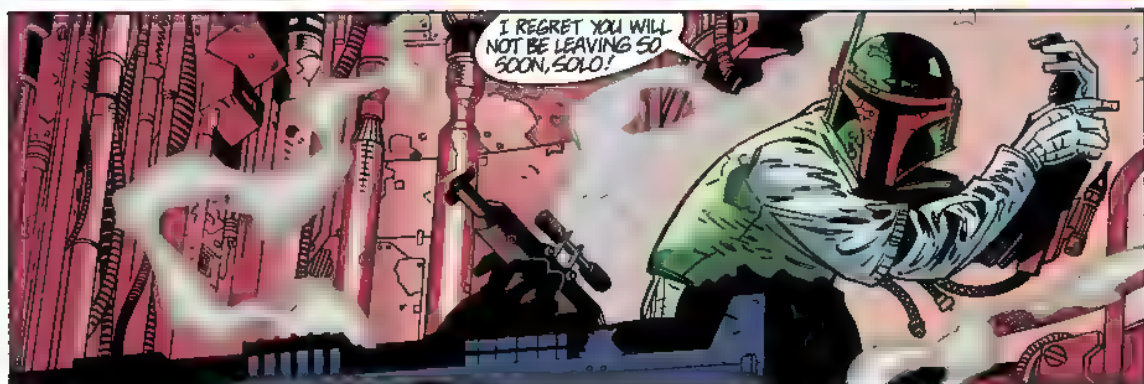














HEY, ZUCKUSS!
ONCE SOLO'S SAFE-
LY ABOARD, I'VE GOT A
GOOD MIND TO BLOW
UP FETT'S SHIP
ANYWAY!

YEAH! IT'D
PAY HIM BACK FOR
HOLDING OUT ON US!
WHAT DO YOU THINK,
ZUCKUSS?

ZUCKUSS?



THAT SEEMS
A BIT, UH... ~~HARSH~~,
BOSSK. AFTER ALL,
FETT'S NOT THAT
BAD.

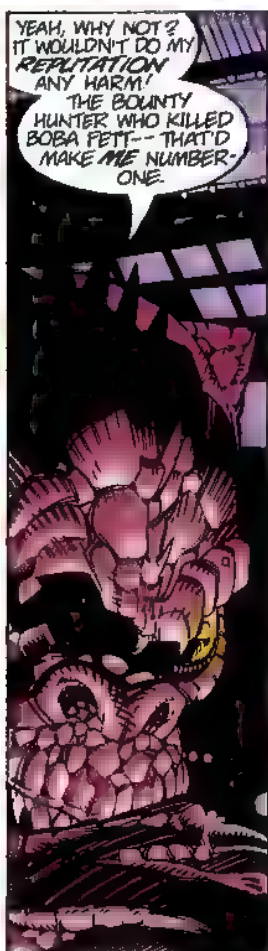
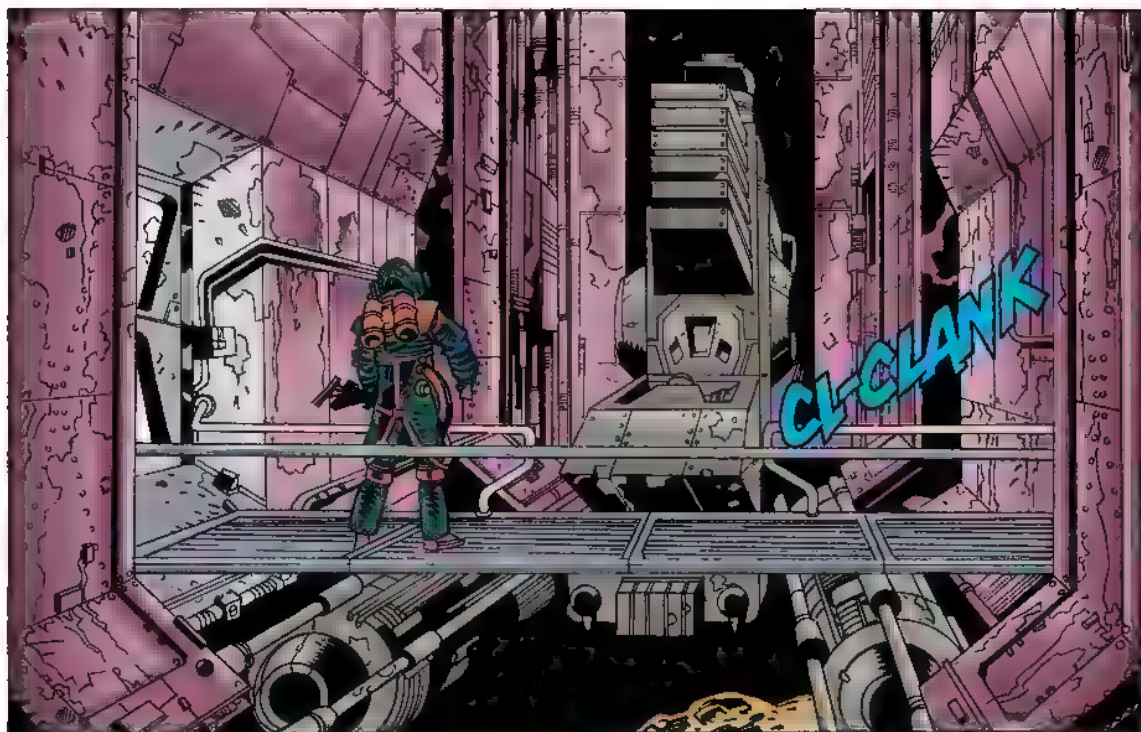
WHAT DO YOU
MEAN? YOU HATE
HIM AS MUCH AS
I DO!

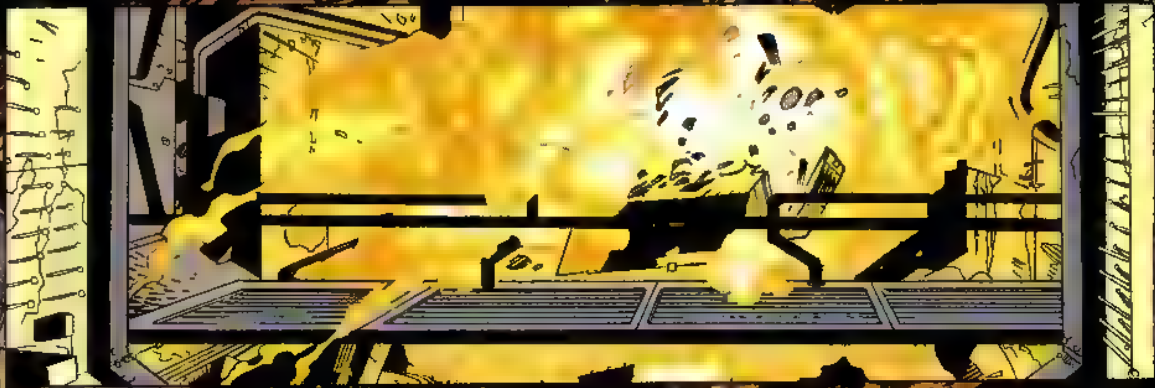


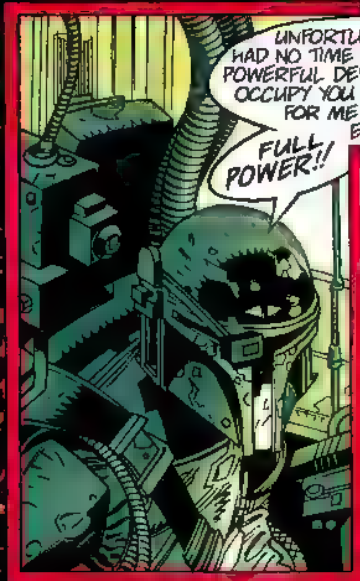
HATE HIM? D-DEAR
ME, NO! IN FACT, I-I
ADMIRE AND RE-
SPECT HIM.

SORT OF.

I
DON'T BELIEVE
WHAT I'M HEARING.
THIS FROM YOU,
ZUCKUSS?

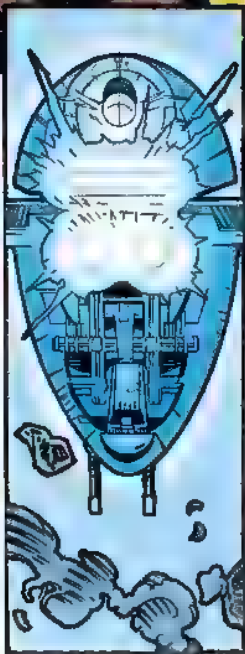
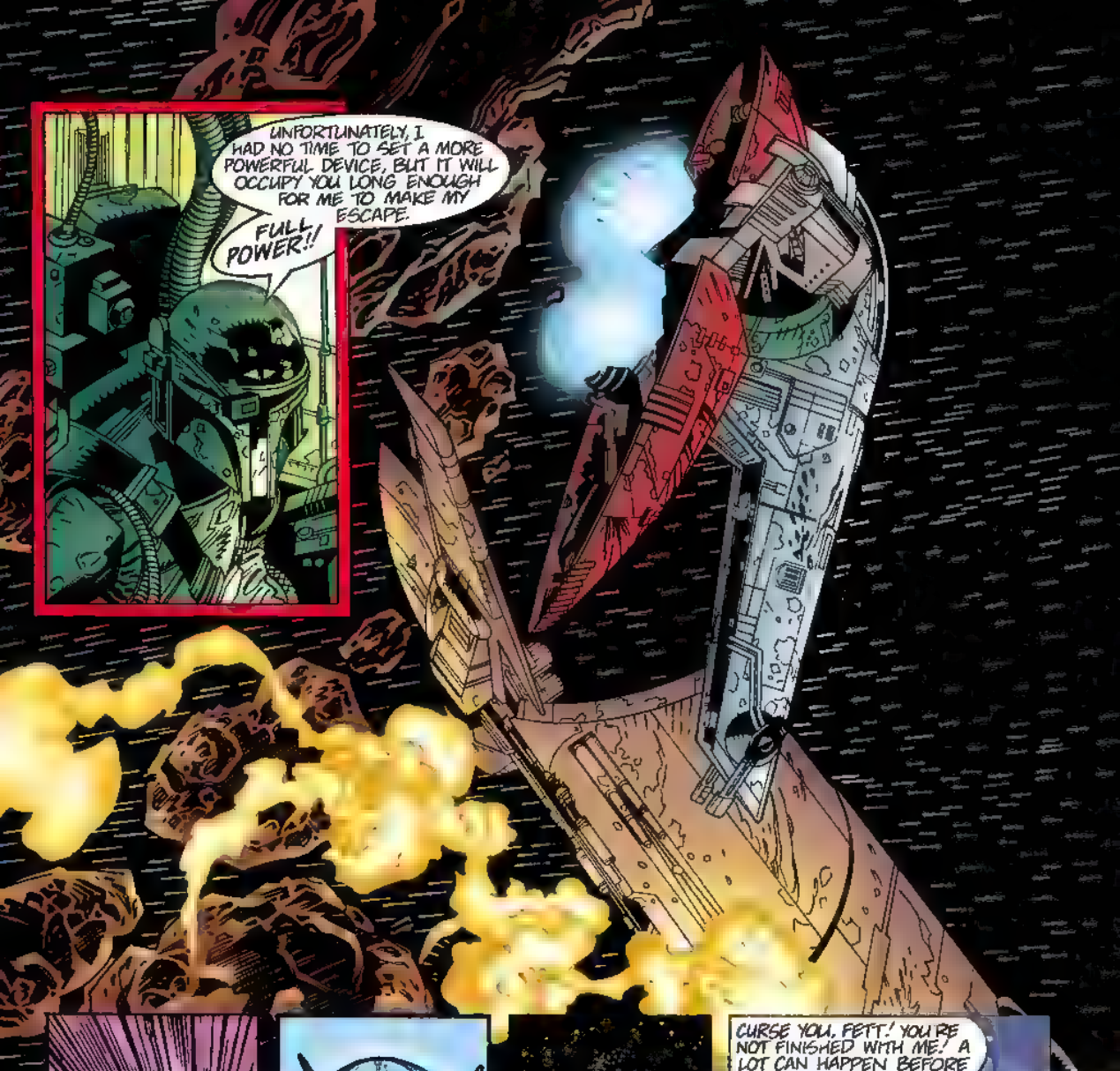






UNFORTUNATELY, I
HAD NO TIME TO SET A MORE
POWERFUL DEVICE, BUT IT WILL
OCCUPY YOU LONG ENOUGH
FOR ME TO MAKE MY
ESCAPE.

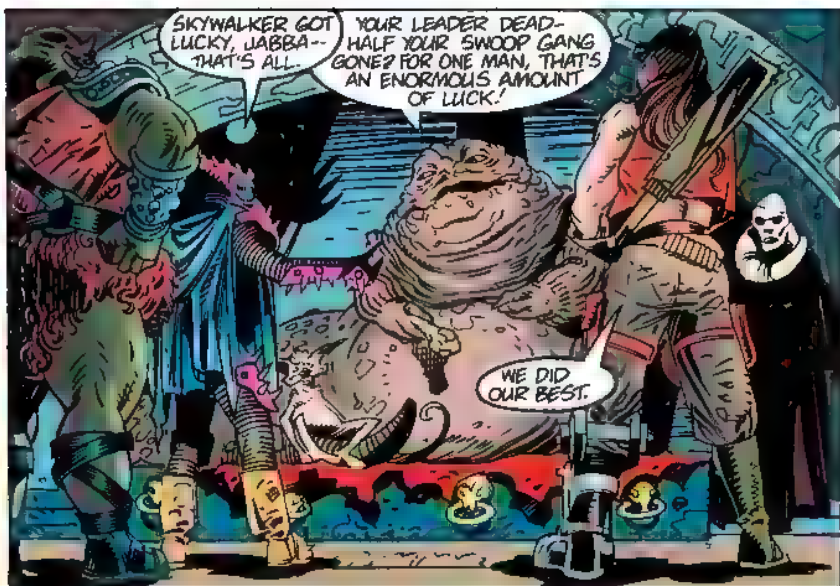
FULL
POWER!!



CURSE YOU, FETT! YOU'RE
NOT FINISHED WITH ME! A
LOT CAN HAPPEN BEFORE
YOU GET SOLO TO JABBA
THE HUTT!



TELL
ME AGAIN HOW
SKYWALKER
ESCAPED YOU.



SKYWALKER GOT
LUCKY, JABBA--
THAT'S ALL--

YOUR LEADER DEAD--
HALF YOUR SWOOP GANG
GONE? FOR ONE MAN, THAT'S
AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT
OF LUCK!

WE DID
OUR BEST.



AND WHAT IS YOUR
BEST, JIX? THE OTHERS
I KNOW--THEY'RE TOO
STUPID TO BETRAY ME.
BUT YEAH... YOU I DON'T
KNOW

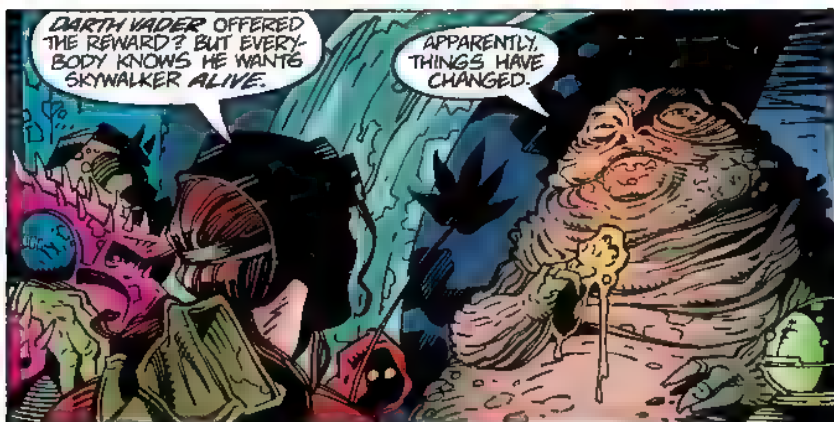
I DIDN'T GET THIS
BROKEN LEG RUNNING FROM
A FIGHT, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU
MEAN. YOU GOT ANY QUESTIONS,
ASK SPIKER. HE'S THE ONE
WHO TURNED TAIL.



YOU CALLIN'
ME YELLOW? ROT
YOUR GUTS,
JIX--

CEASE!

AS FAR AS I AM CON-
CERNED, YOU'RE ALL
AT FAULT! NO AMOUNT OF
YOUR SQUABBLING WILL
BRING VADER'S REWARD
NOW!



DARTH VADER OFFERED
THE REWARD? BUT EVERY-
BODY KNOWS HE WANTS
SKYWALKER ALIVE.

APPARENTLY,
THINGS HAVE
CHANGED.



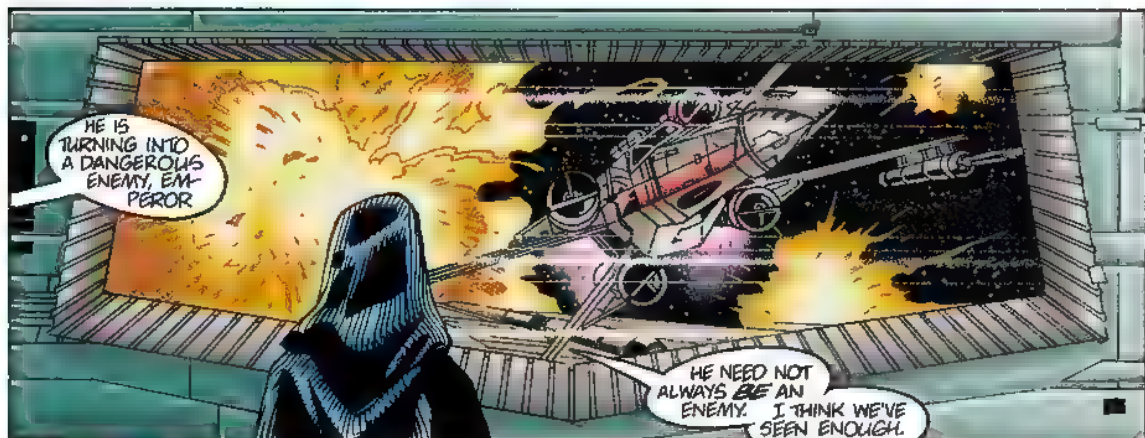
SKYWALKER HAS
OBVIOUSLY INCURRED
LORD VADER'S DIS-
PLEASURE.

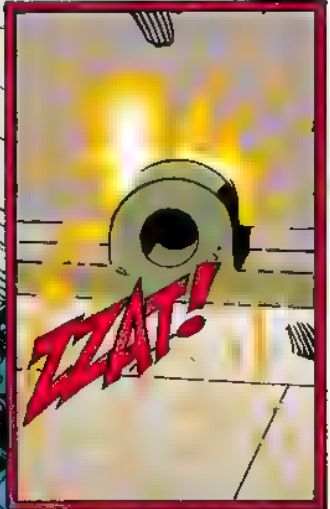
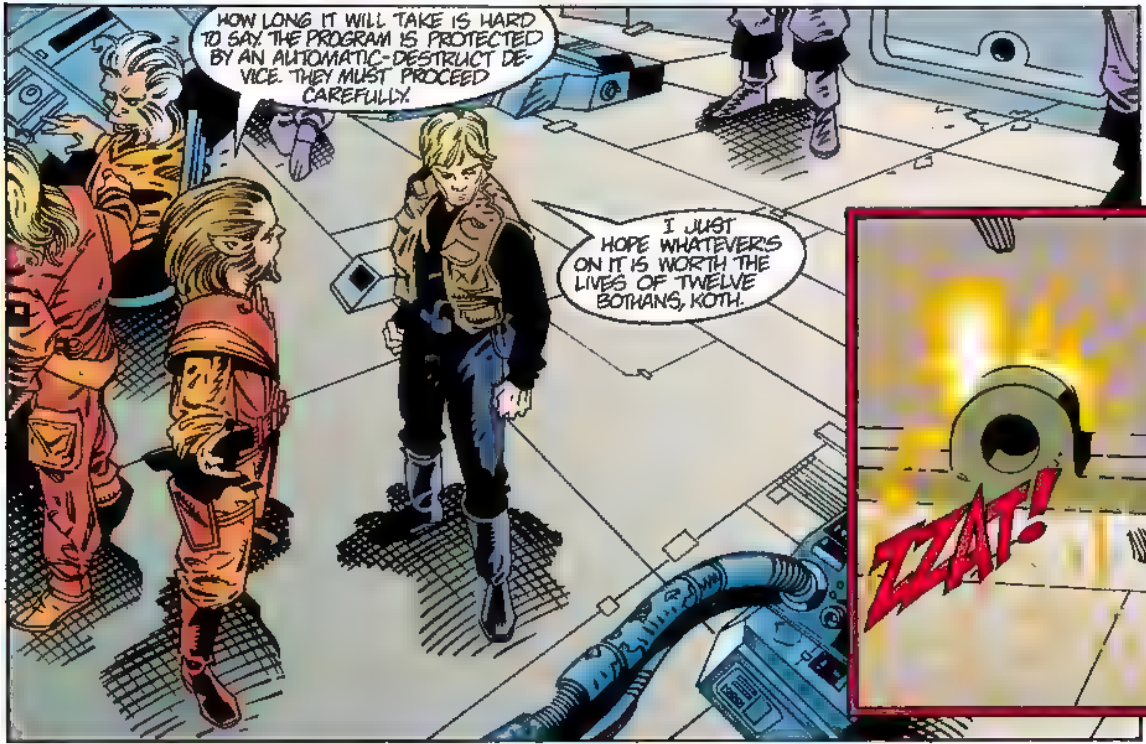
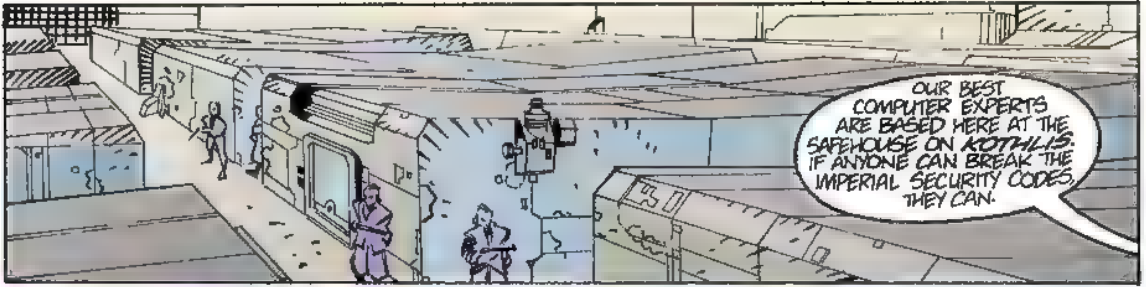


"TWELVE BOTHAN SHIPS WERE WAITING WHEN OUR FREIGHTER CAME OUT OF HYPERSPACE.

"BUT THE BOTHAN CREWS WERE INEXPERIENCED--SIX OF THEM WERE DESTROYED.

"HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR SKYWALKER AND HIS X-WING, THE FREIGHTER MIGHT HAVE ESCAPED.





WE ARE CLEARED TO
LAND ON CORUSCANT,
PRINCESS

BLACK SUN HAS CONTACTS THERE,
BUT WE CANNOT MAKE IT TOO OBVIOUS
YOU ARE UNDER OUR PROTECTION.

THESE
SHOULD GET YOU
PAST CUSTOMS.

THEY
STINK.

THEY BELONGED TO **BOLISSH**,
AN UMBESIAN BOUNTY HUNTER. HE
TRIED TO RASCAL BLACK SUN ON A
JOB HE DID FOR US.
THAT WAS...
UNWISE.

I'M SURE.

MEET
SNOOVA, A
WELL-KNOWN
WOOKIEE BOUNTY
HUNTER.

STOP COMPLAINING,
CHEWIE. THE DYE
WILL WASH OUT IN A
COUPLE OF WEEKS.
YOU'LL BE BACK TO
NORMAL.

IF WE
SURVIVE
THAT LONG...
WE'RE TAKING A RISK,
ALLOWING GURI TO GUIDE US
INTO THE HEART OF BLACK
SUN. BUT IT'S WORTH IT IF
PRINCE XIZOR CAN TELL US WHO'S
TRYING TO HAVE **LUKE**
ASSASSINATED.

BESIDES, GURI
MAY LOOK HUMAN, BUT
SHE'S A REPLIC DROID.
IF SHE'D WANTED TO HARM
US, SHE COULD HAVE DONE
IT ANYTIME.

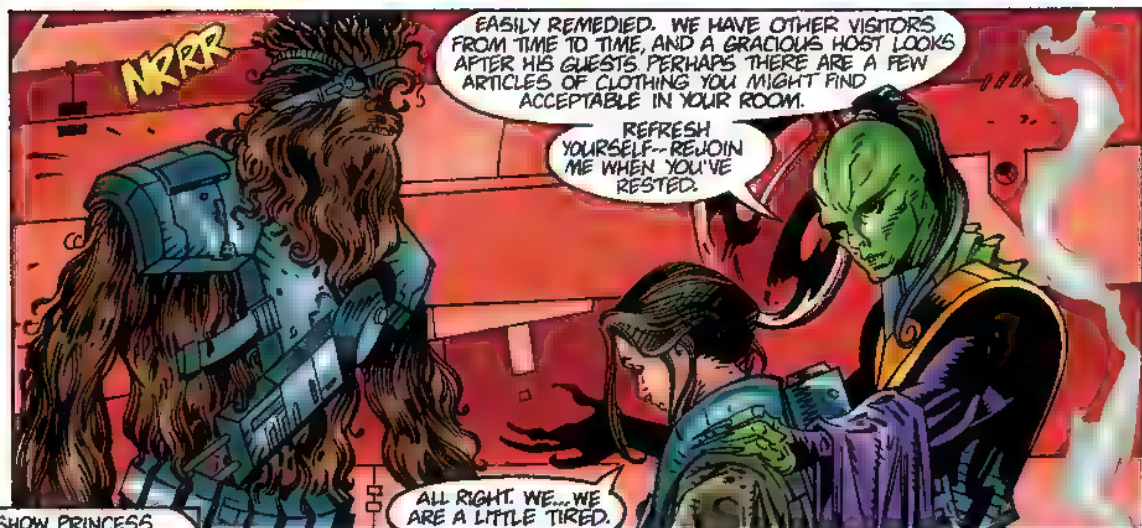








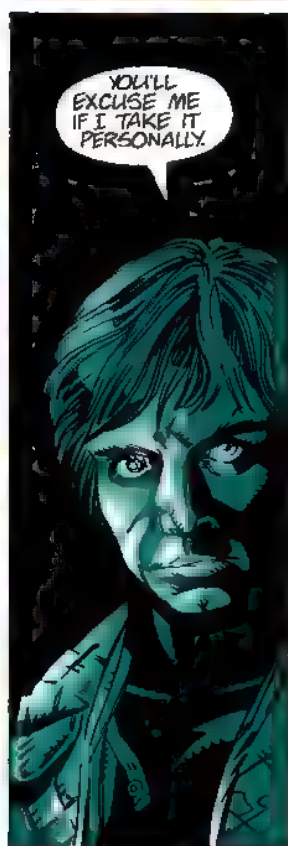
WELCOME.
I AM ZIZOR.

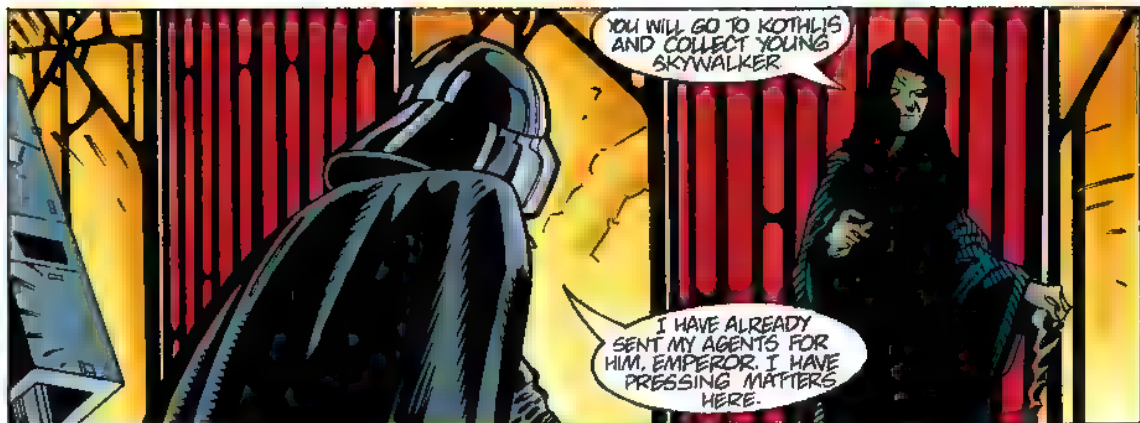


SHOW PRINCESS LEIA AND CHEWBACCA TO THEIR ROOMS.

AT ONCE, PRINCE XIZOR







YOU WILL GO TO KOTH LIS
AND COLLECT YOUNG
SKYWALKER

I HAVE ALREADY
SENT MY AGENTS FOR
HIM, EMPEROR. I HAVE
PRESSING MATTERS
HERE.



I HAVE ONLY JUST LEARNED
OF LUKE'S PRESENCE ON
KOTH LIS. THE EMPEROR
MUST HAVE ANOTHER
SOURCE-- *XIZOR*.

MORE
PRESSING THAN
MY COMMANDS,
LORD VADER?



NO, MY
MASTER.

I THOUGHT
NOT AGENTS ARE
NOT TO BE TRUSTED...
AND THERE IS ANOTHER
REASON...



PRINCE XIZOR'S SCHEME
HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED.
THE PLANS FOR THE
DEATH STAR ARE ALSO
ON KOTH LIS. WE MUST
APPEAR TO BE ANXIOUS
TO RECOVER THEM-- TO
CONVINCE THE REBELS
THE PLANS ARE OF GREAT
VALUE.

IF YOU
ARE ON KOTH LIS,
THEY WILL BE
CONVINCED.



AND WHILE I AM
OUT OF THE WAY WHAT
OTHER MISCHIEF WILL THAT
SCHEMING REPTILE *XIZOR*
BE CONDUCTING?

I WILL HASTEN
MY RETURN.



DEEP BREATHS.



CLEAR MIND

THE FORCE
IS WITH YOU.



YOU CAN DO THIS!

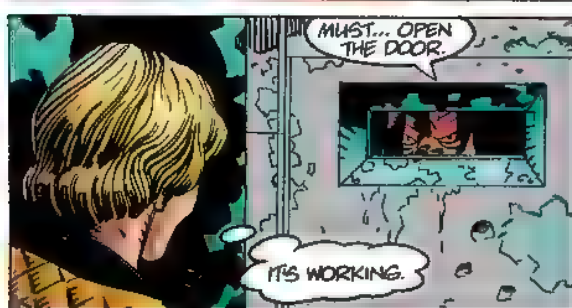
OPEN
THE DOOR



HUH?



PUT
DOWN YOUR
RIFLE AND
OPEN THE
DOOR!!



MUST... OPEN
THE DOOR.

IT'S WORKING.



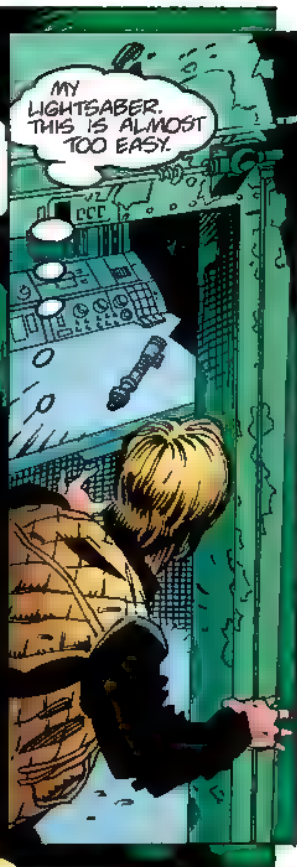
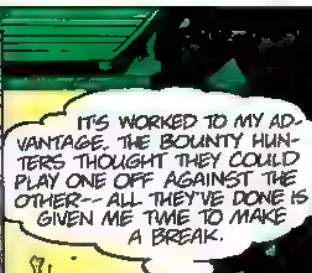
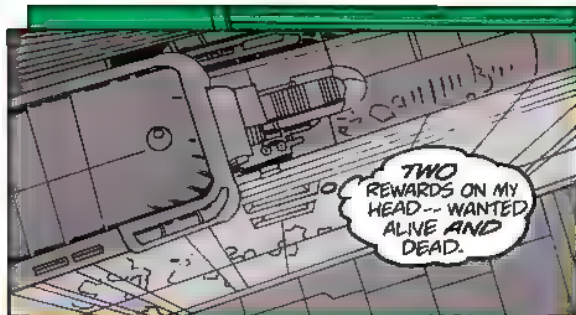
WH-WHAT--?

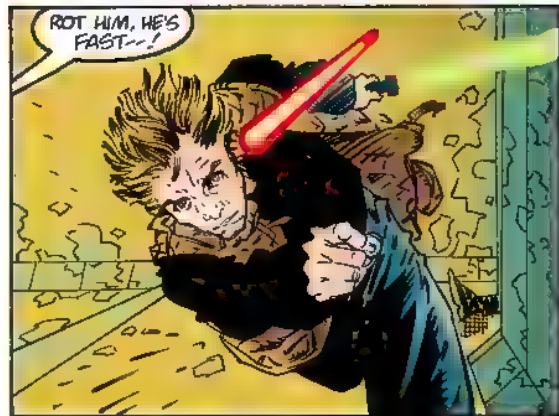
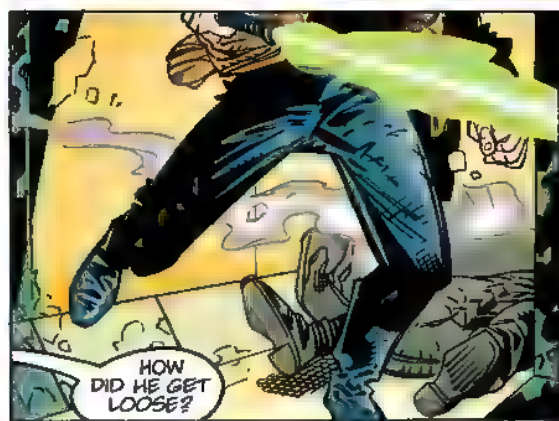
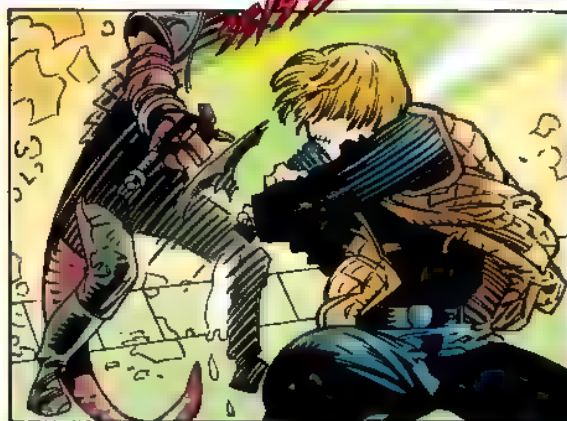
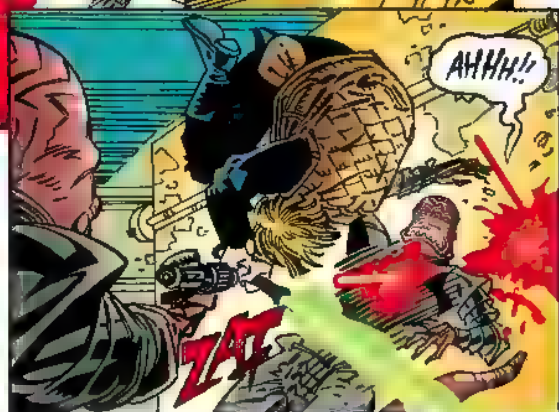
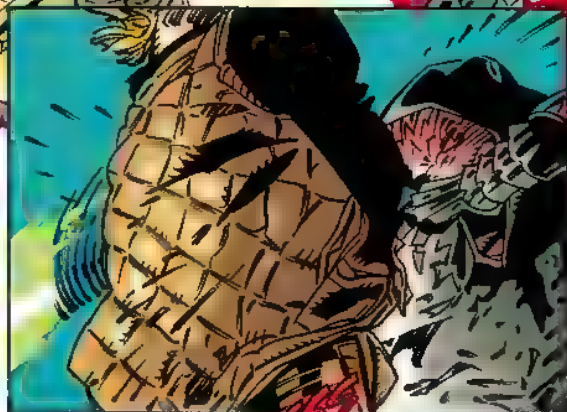


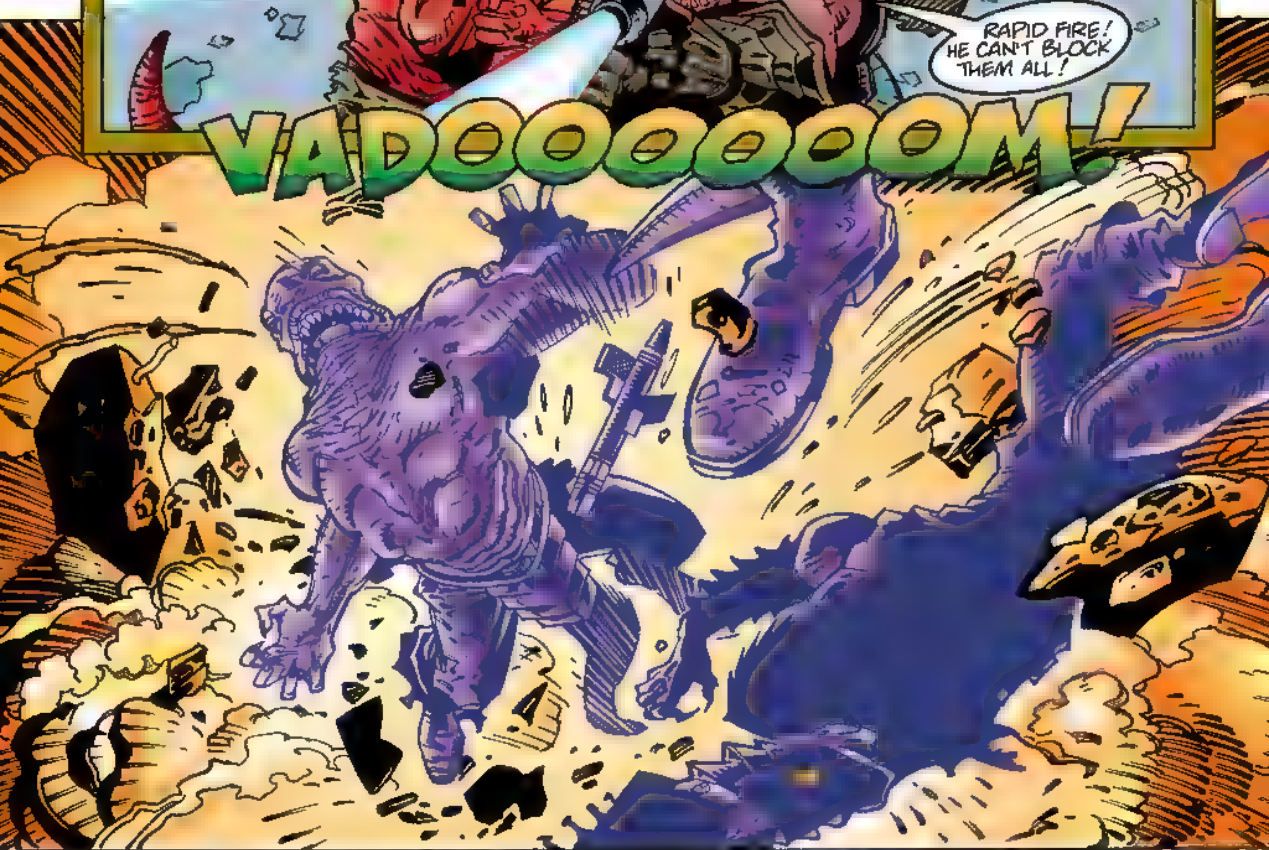
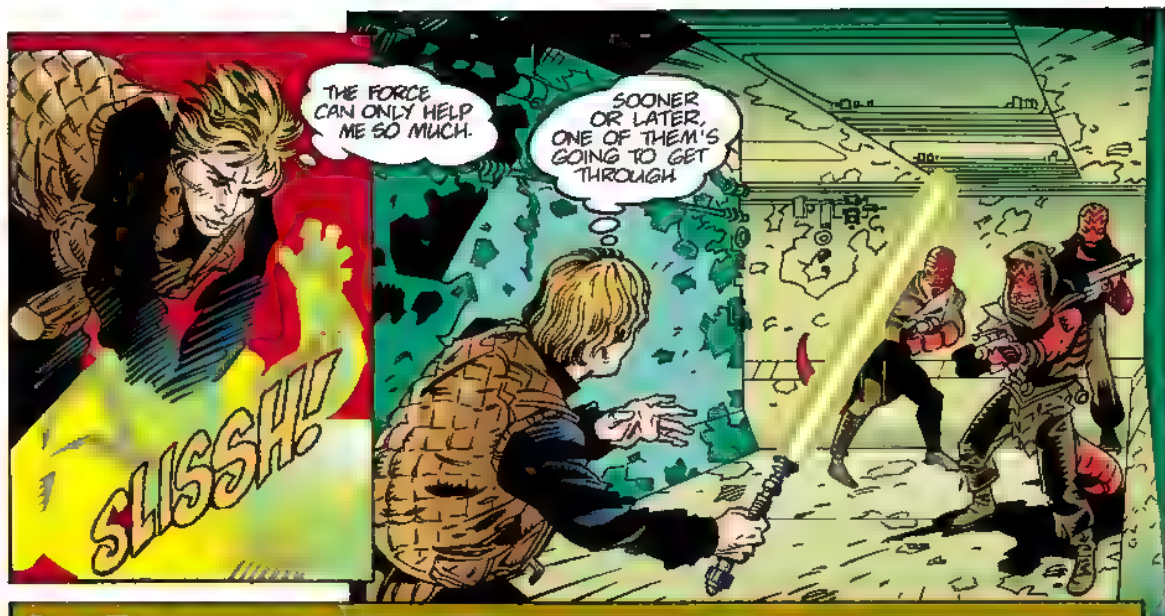
YOU'RE LOSING HIM!
CONCENTRATE!

PUT YOUR
RIFLE DOWN
AND OPEN
THE DOOR
NOW.





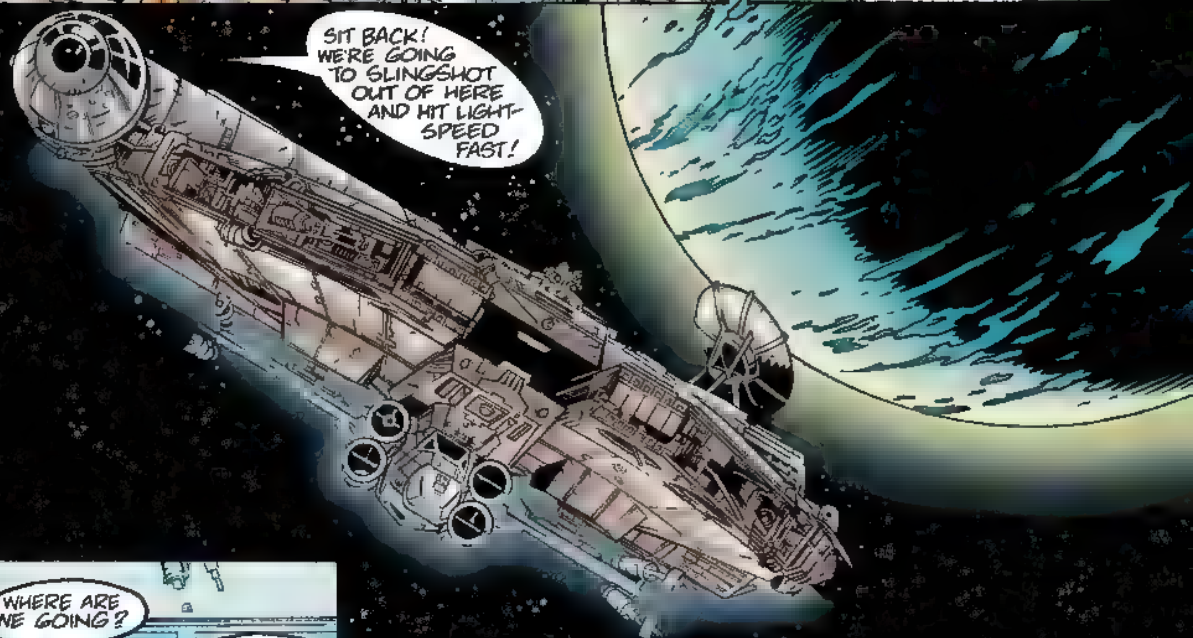
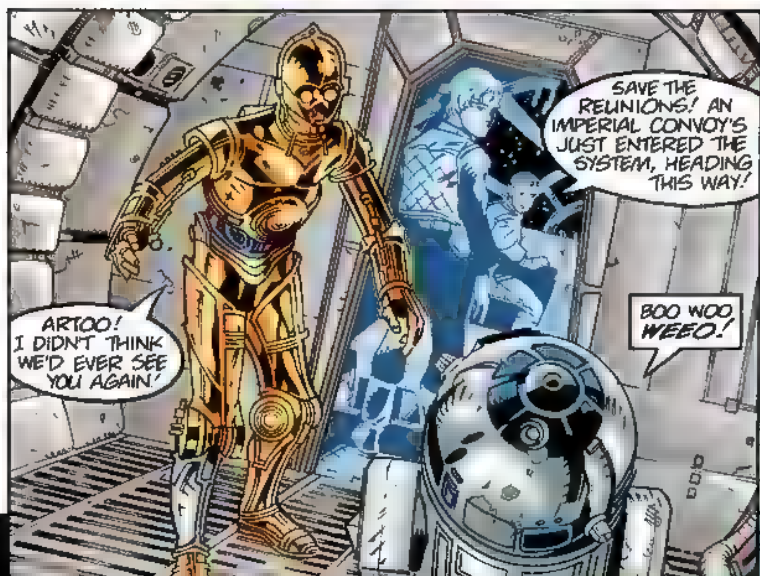


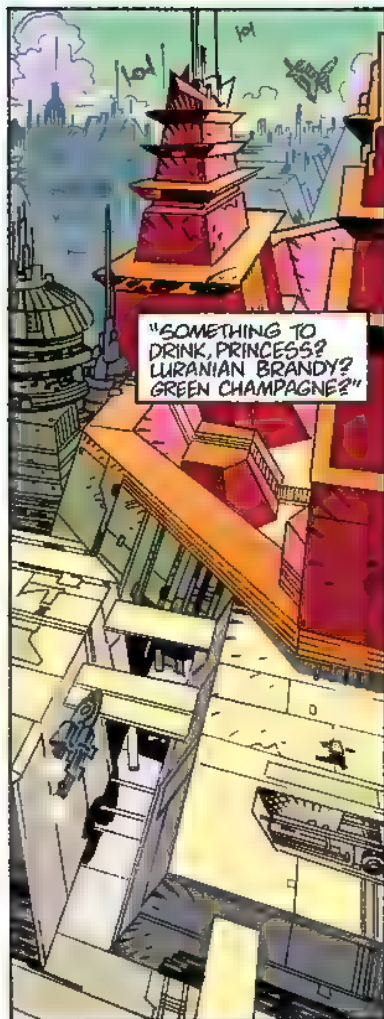





"WE'LL PICK UP ARTOO
AND YOUR X-WING
ON THE WAY BY."






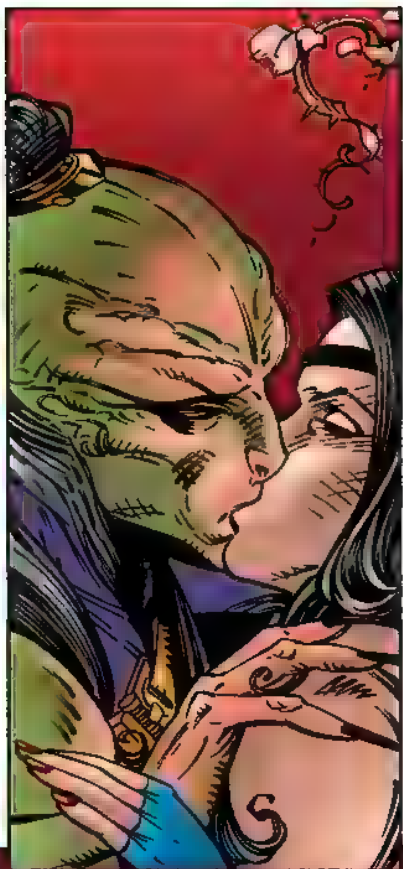




WHAT'S WRONG
WITH ME? I FEEL DIZZY
BEING NEAR HIM. HIS SKIN
SEEMS TO GLOW...


WAR DOES
MAKE STRANGE
BEDFELLOWS.

I WANT
HIM TO TOUCH
ME... TO KISS
ME.




NO. THIS ISN'T
RIGHT. I CAME TO...
TALK ABOUT LUKE
SKYWALKER.

IN DUE
COURSE.

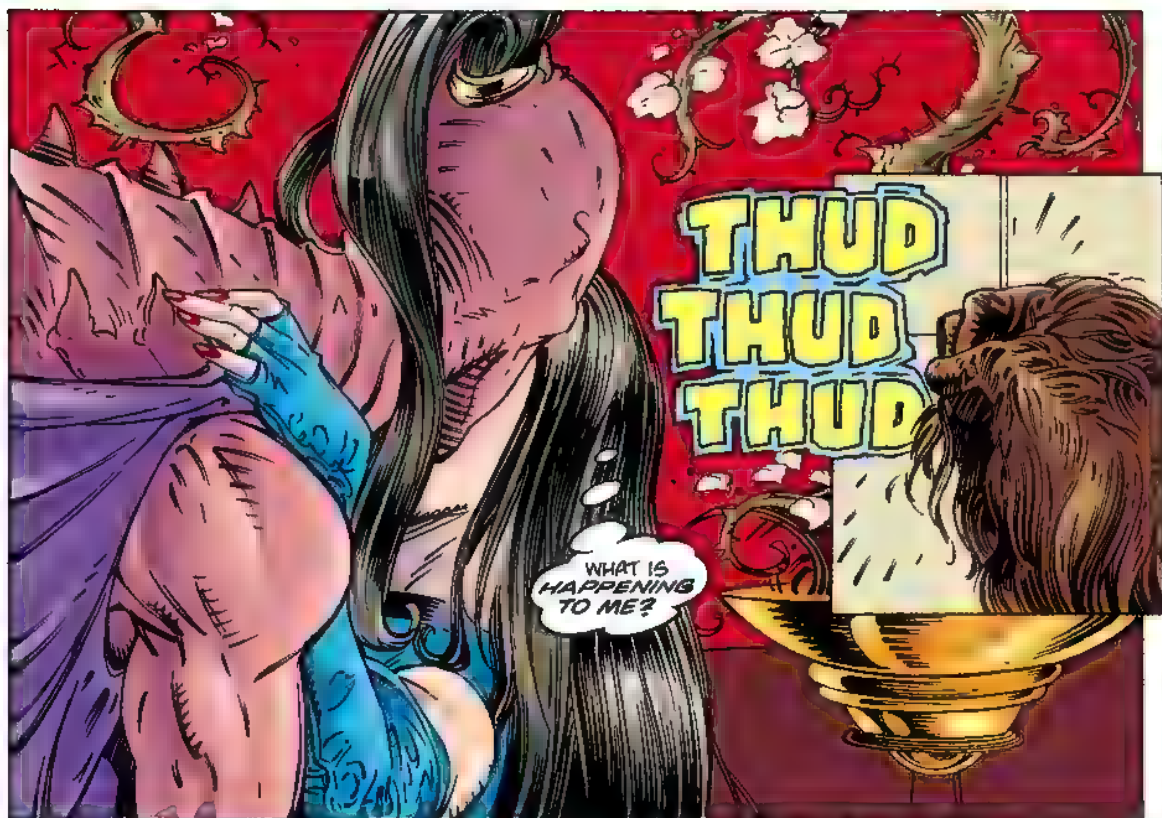


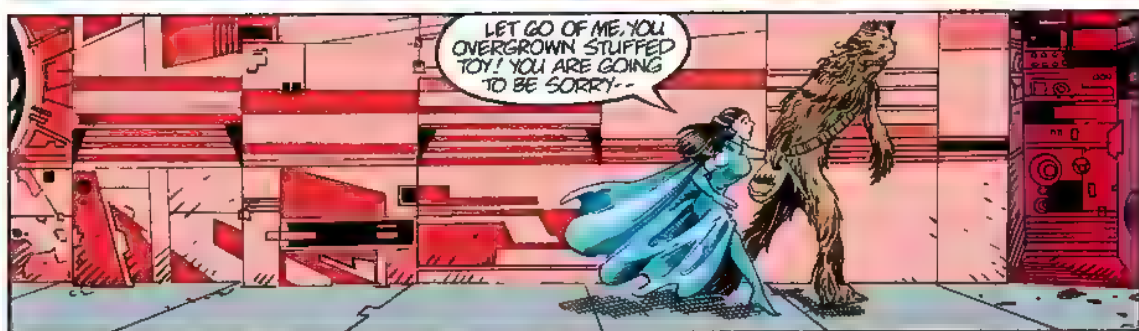
WE HAVE MORE
IMPORTANT THINGS
TO DO FIRST.



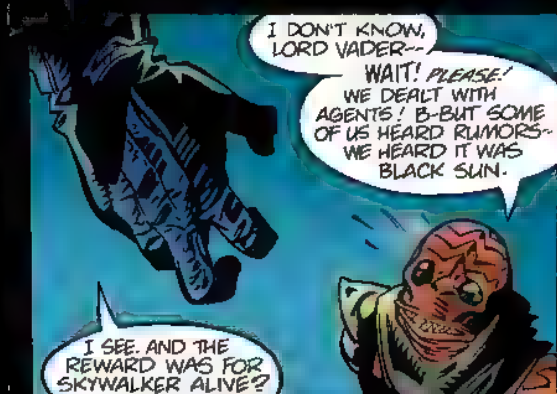
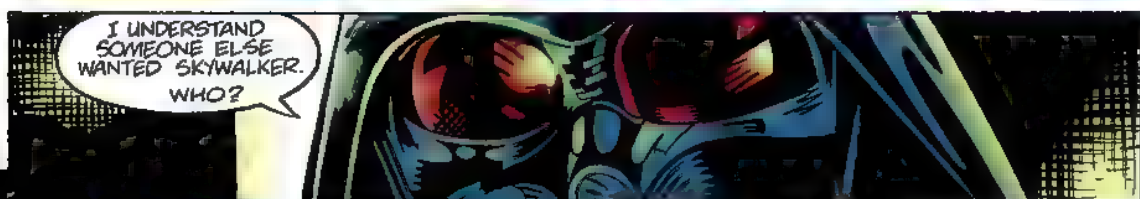
THIS IS ALL
WRONG. HAN--
I LOVE HAN!

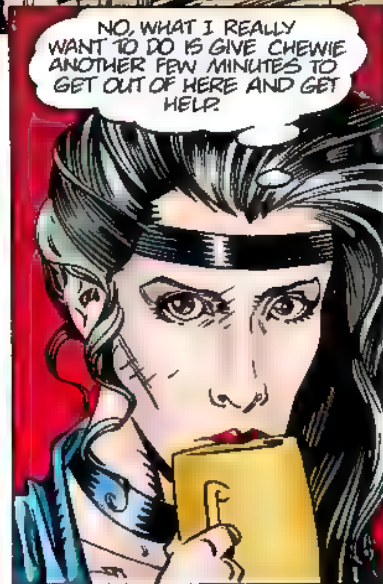
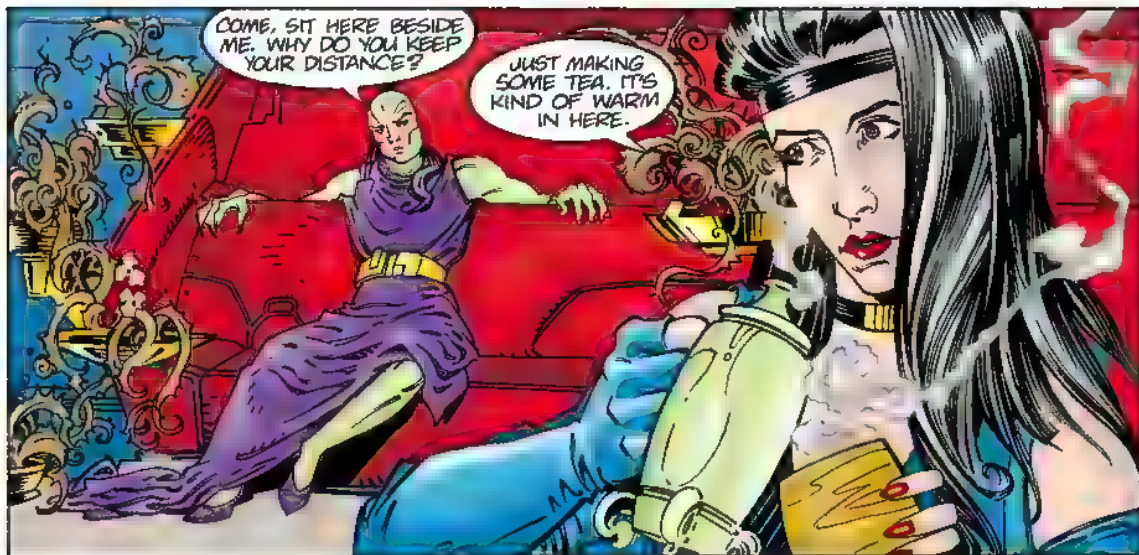
AND YET...
I CAN'T SEEM
TO RESIST.







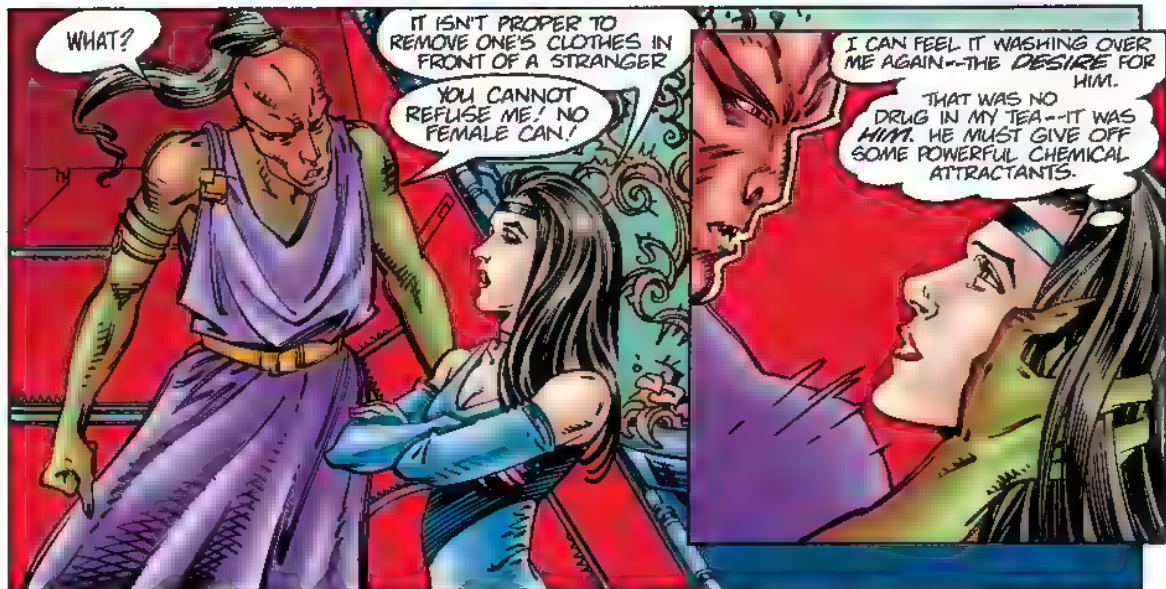
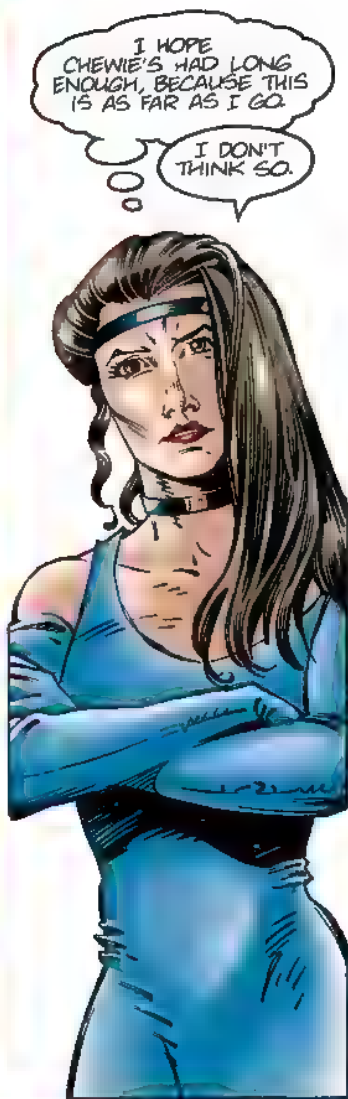
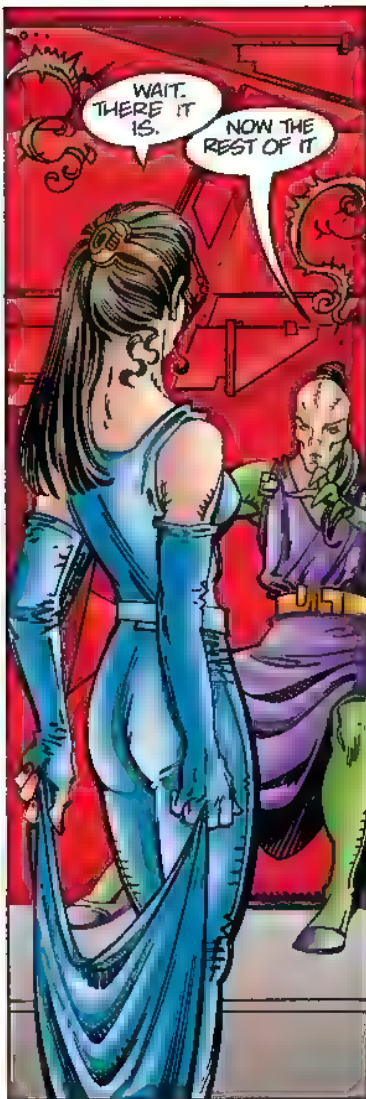
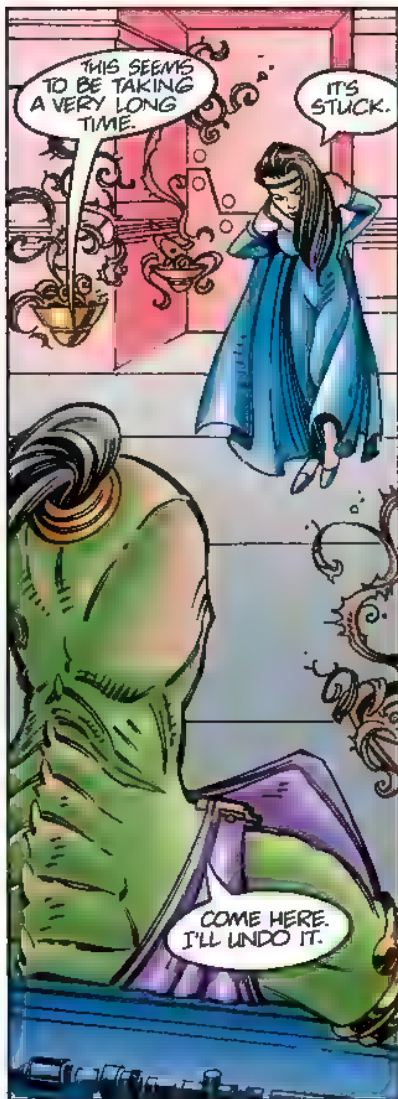


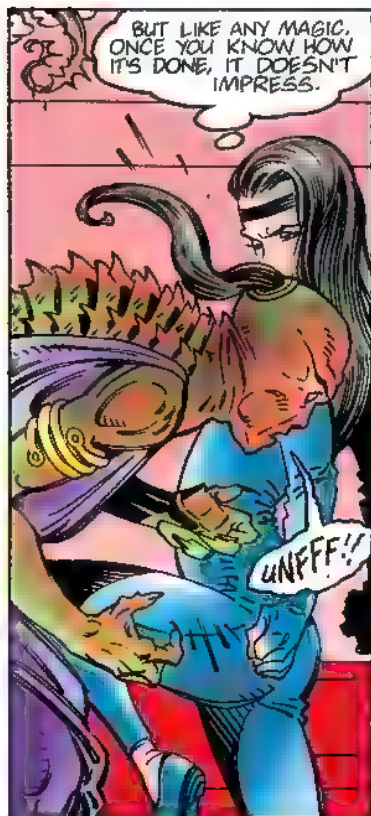




NURRAAAR!

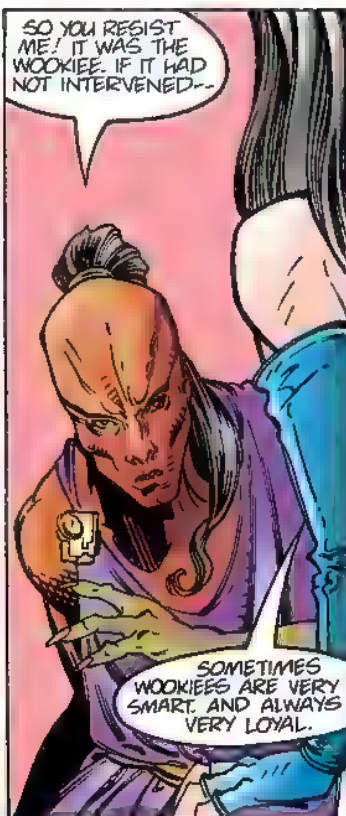
BZZAANG





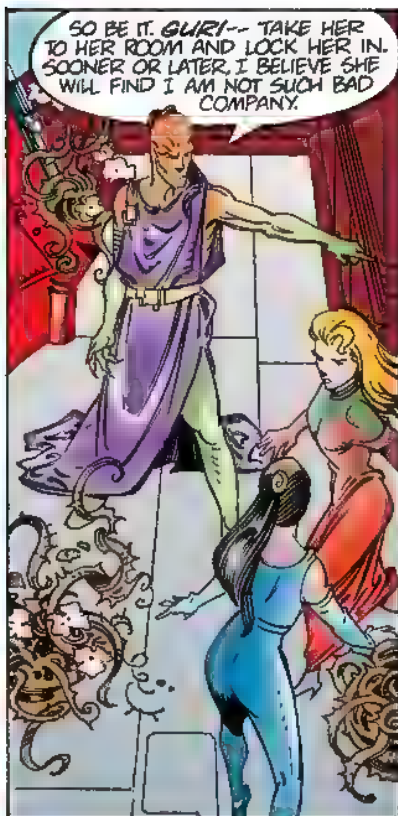
BUT LIKE ANY MAGIC, ONCE YOU KNOW HOW IT'S DONE, IT DOESN'T IMPRESS.

UNFFF!!



SO YOU RESIST ME! IT WAS THE WOOKIEE. IF IT HAD NOT INTERVENED--

SOMETIMES WOOKIEES ARE VERY SMART, AND ALWAYS VERY LOYAL.



SO BE IT. GURI-- TAKE HER TO HER ROOM AND LOCK HER IN. SOONER OR LATER, I BELIEVE SHE WILL FIND I AM NOT SUCH BAD COMPANY.



DON'T COUNT ON IT.



DID THE WOOKIEE ESCAPE?

YES, MAJESTY.

YOU DID NOT ALLOW HIM TO THINK IT TOO EASY?

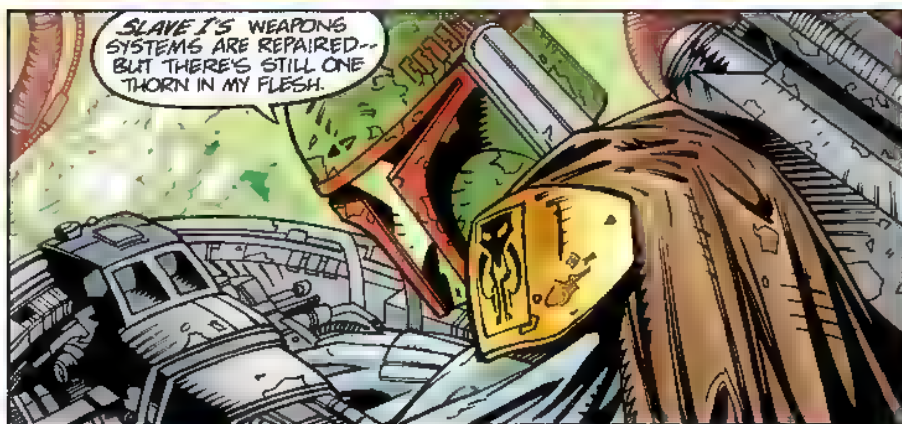
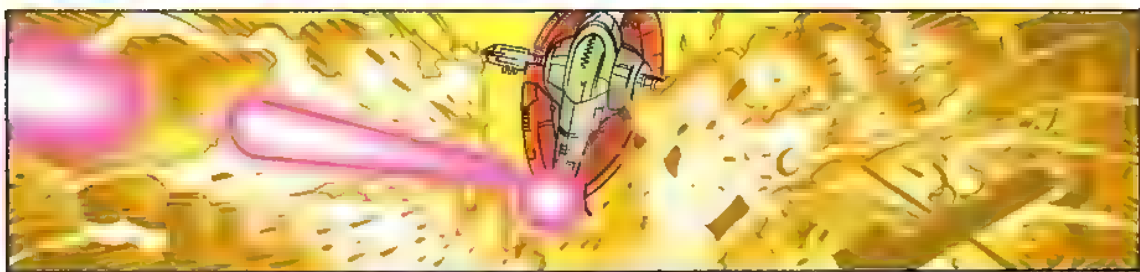
WE PUT FIVE OF OUR TROOPS DOWN. WE SINGED HIM WITH A BLASTER BEAM.

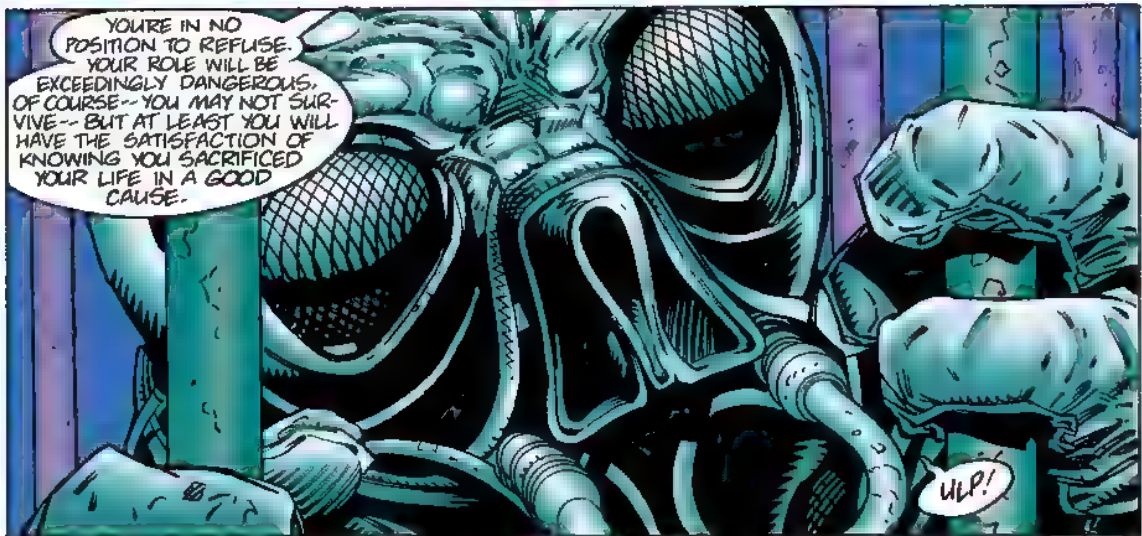
GOOD.

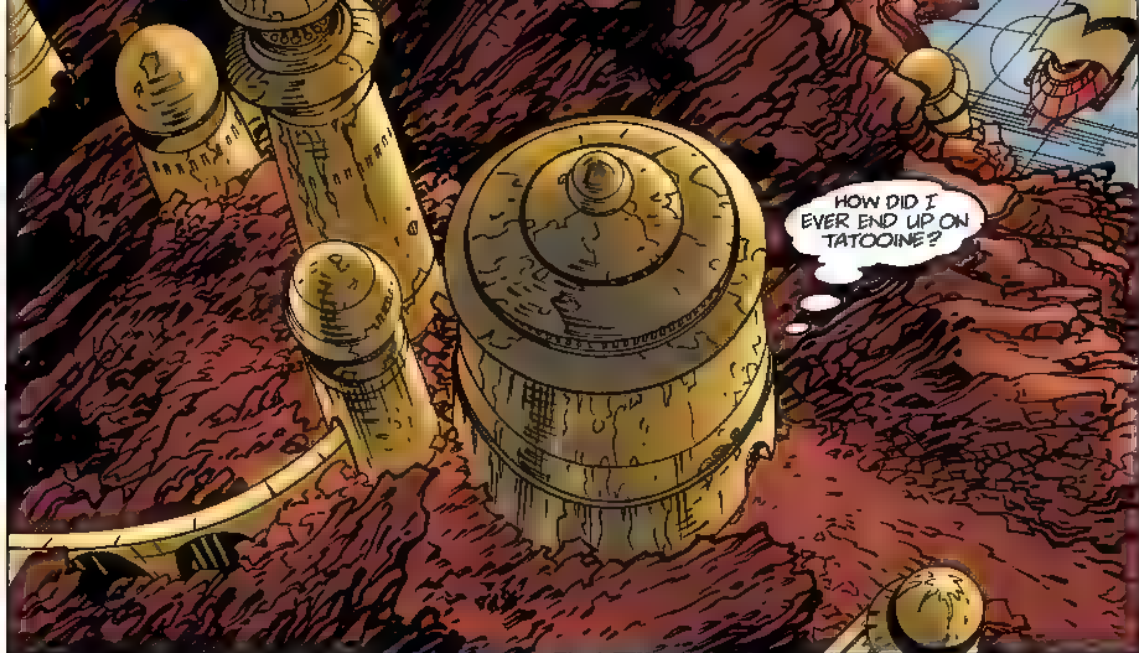
THE WOOKIEE WILL NO DOUBT CONTACT SKYWALKER, WHO WILL COME RUNNING TO RESCUE THE PRINCESS.

RIGHT INTO MY HANDS

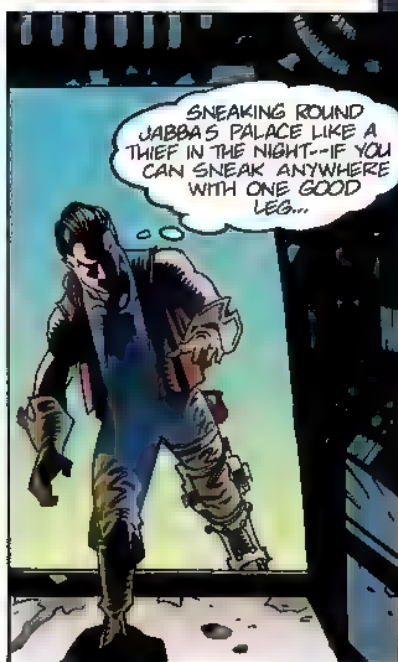








HOW DID I
EVER END UP ON
TATOOINE?



SNEAKING ROUND
JABBA'S PALACE LIKE A
THIEF IN THE NIGHT--IF YOU
CAN SNEAK ANYWHERE
WITH ONE GOOD
LEG...

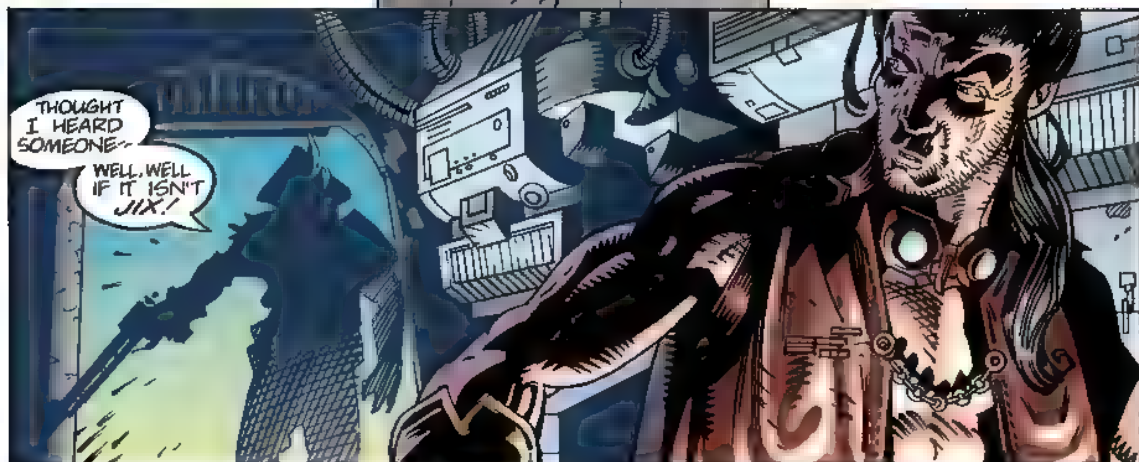


THE SOONER
I'M OFF THIS
FLOATING DIRTBALL
AND BACK TO
CIVILIZATION, THE
BETTER



ENTER SECURITY
CODE

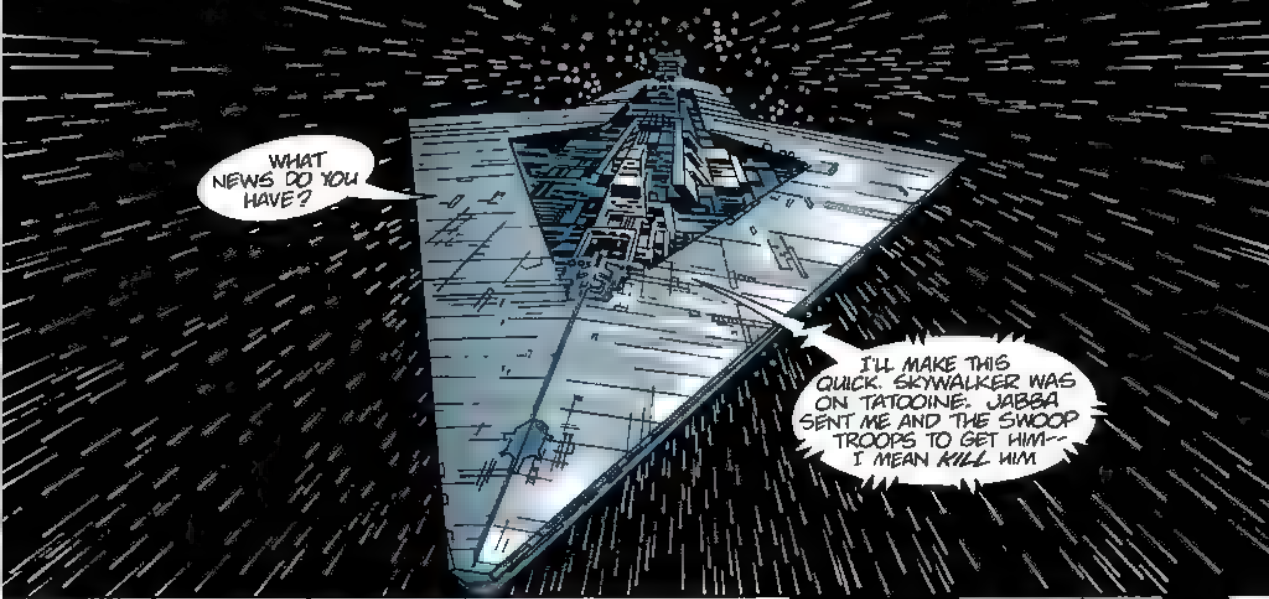
SECURITY CODE--
JUST LIKE THAT TIGHT-
WAD JABBA. DOESN'T
WANT ANYONE MAKING
FREE CALLS.
UNFORTUNATELY,
THAT INCLUDES ME



THOUGHT
I HEARD
SOMEONE--


WELL, WELL
IF IT ISN'T
JIX!





WHAT
NEWS DO YOU
HAVE?


I'LL MAKE THIS
QUICK. SKYWALKER WAS
ON TATOOINE. JABBA
SENT ME AND THE SWOOP
TROOPS TO GET HIM--
I MEAN KILL HIM.



YES, THERE IS A SECOND
REWARD ON OFFER. IT SEEMS
BLACK SUN HAS ENTERED
THE BIDDING.

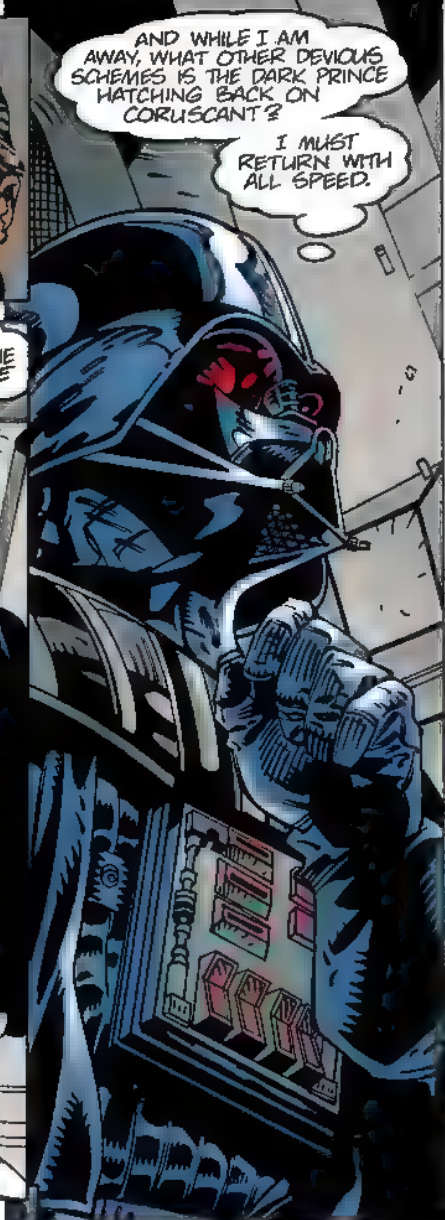


BLACK SUN, NOTHING.
ACCORDING TO JABBA,
THE OFFER CAME
FROM YOU.



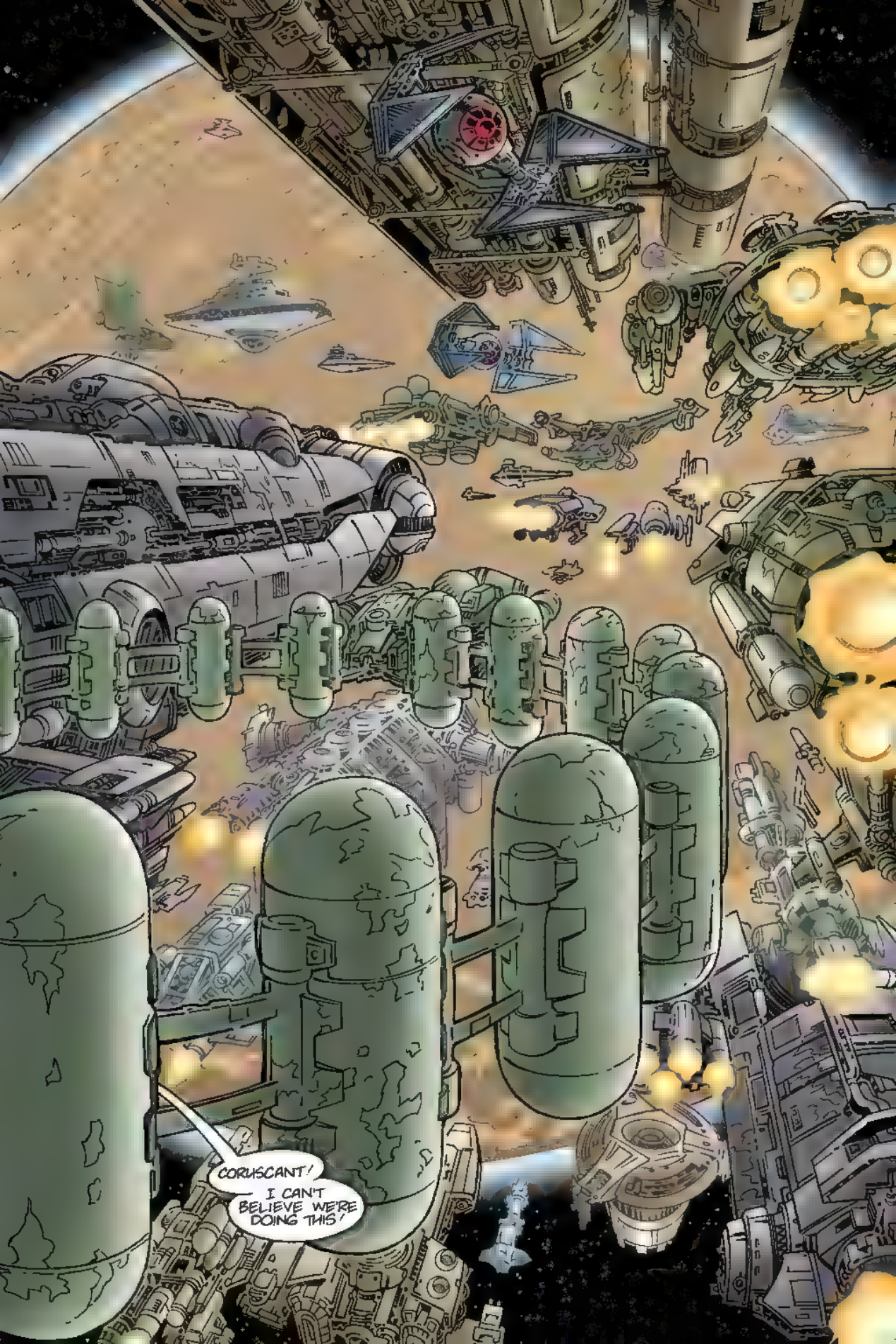
SO XIZOR NOT ONLY
PLANS TO KILL MY SON, HE
INTENDS TO IMPLICATE ME
IN THE DEED. SUCH
TREACHERY.

BUT RUMOR
IS NOT ENOUGH.
I NEED PROOF--
SOLID EVIDENCE
TO PRESENT TO
THE EMPEROR

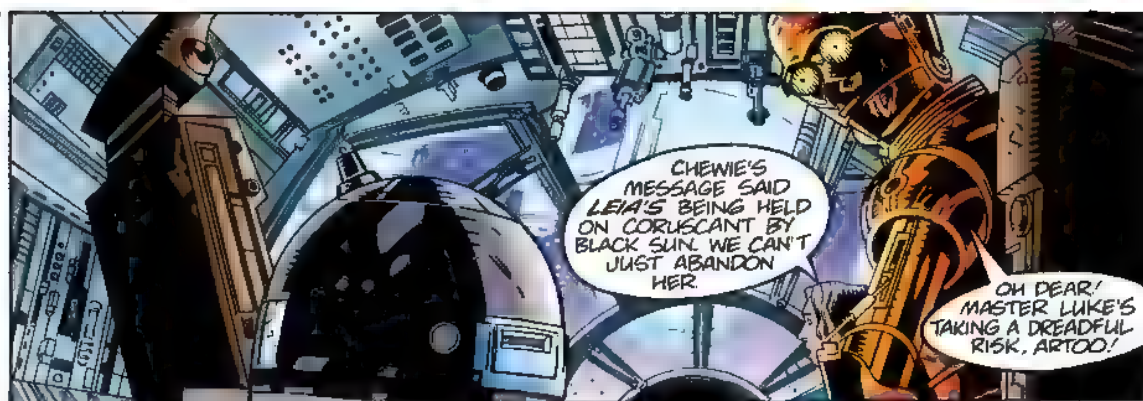
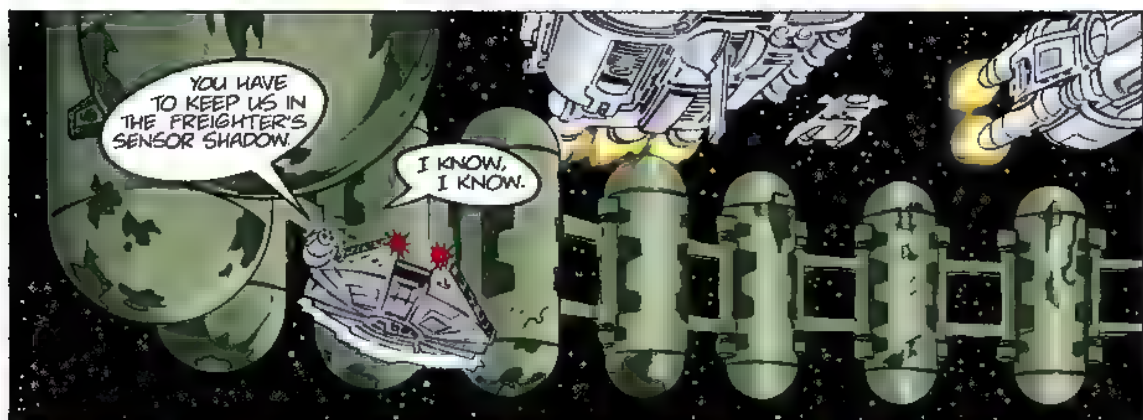
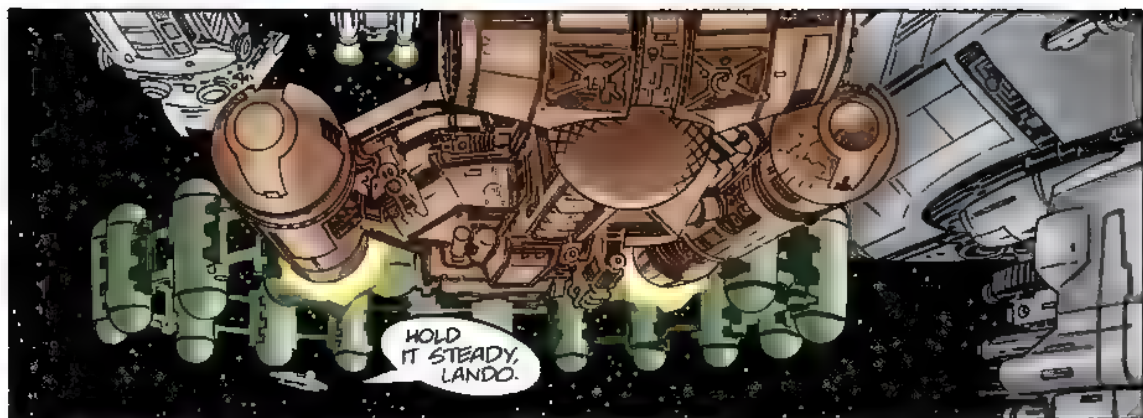


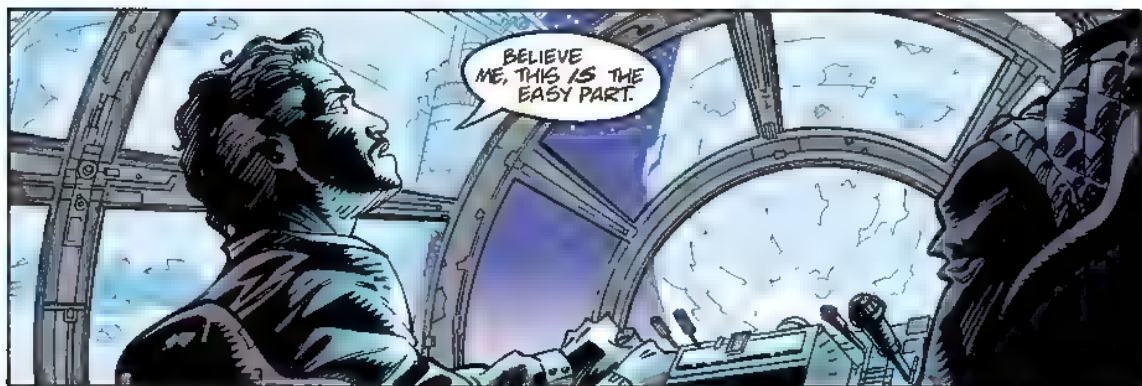
AND WHILE I AM
AWAY, WHAT OTHER DEVISIVE
SCHEMES IS THE DARK PRINCE
HATCHING BACK ON
CORUSCANT?

I MUST
RETURN WITH
ALL SPEED.

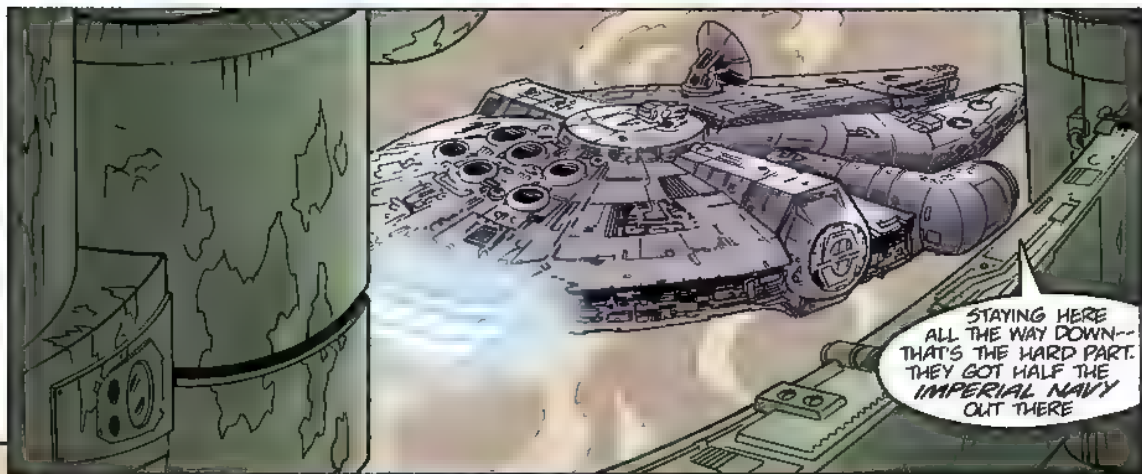


CORUSCANT!
I CAN'T
BELIEVE WE'RE
DOING THIS!

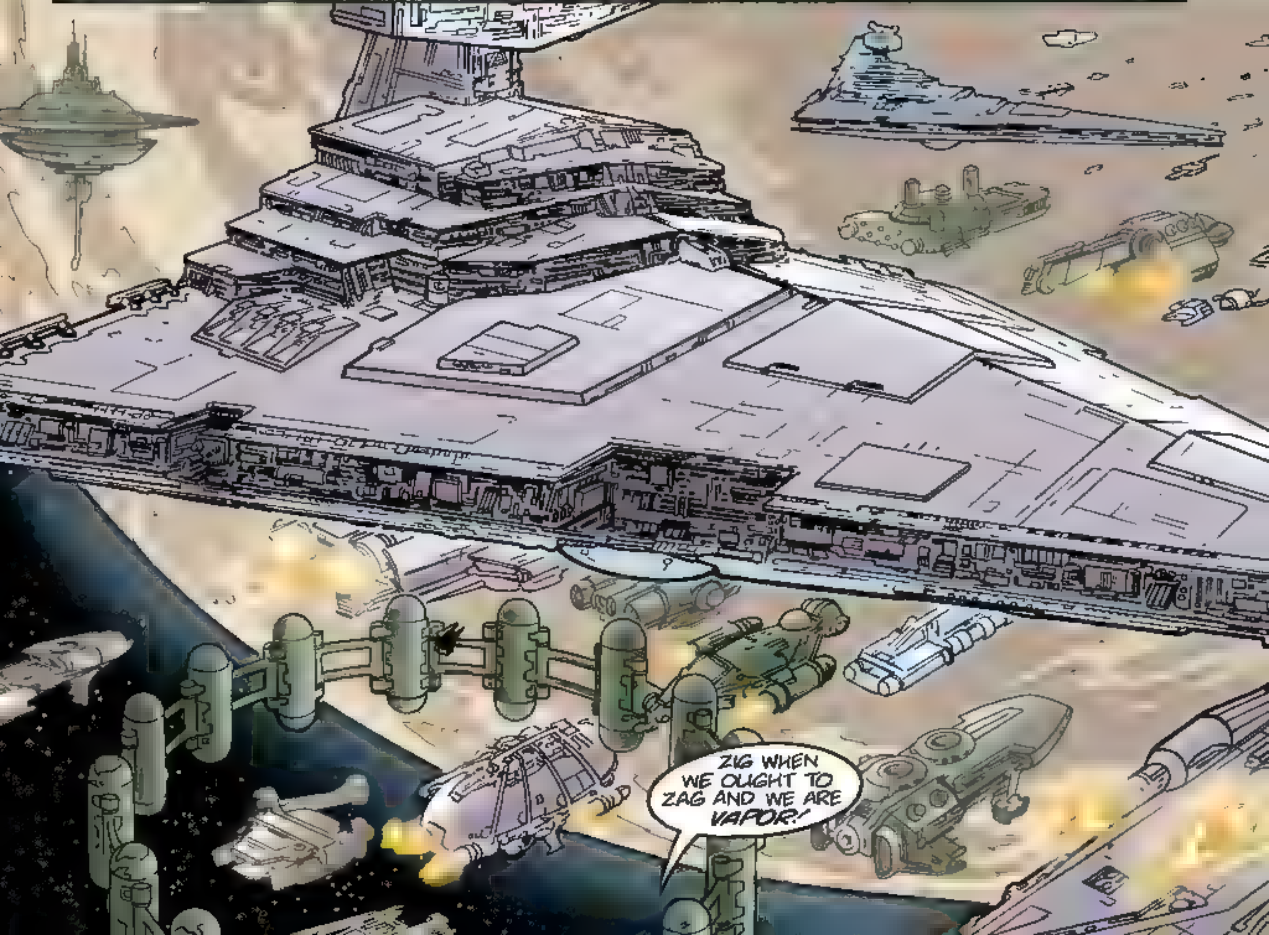




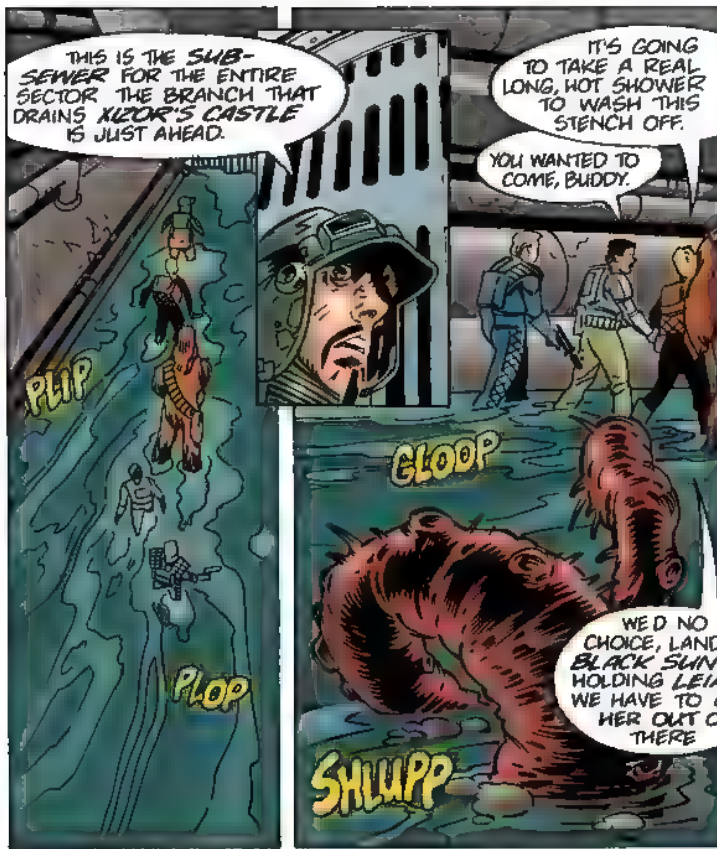
BELIEVE
ME, THIS IS THE
EASY PART.



STAYING HERE
ALL THE WAY DOWN--
THAT'S THE HARD PART.
THEY GOT HALF THE
IMPERIAL NAVY
OUT THERE



ZIG WHEN
WE OUGHT TO
ZAG AND WE ARE
VAPOR!

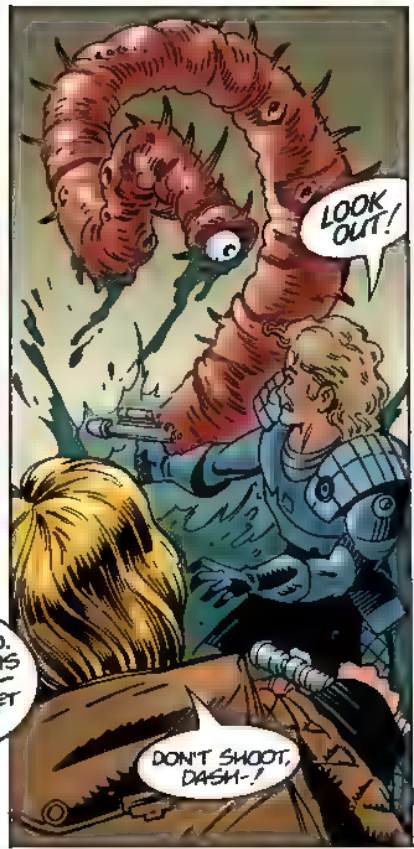


THIS IS THE SUB-SEWER FOR THE ENTIRE SECTOR THE BRANCH THAT DRAINS KUDOR'S CASTLE IS JUST AHEAD.

IT'S GOING TO TAKE A REAL LONG, HOT SHOWER TO WASH THIS STENCH OFF.

YOU WANTED TO COME, BUDDY.

WE'D NO CHOICE, LANDO. BLACK SUN IS HOLDING LEIA - WE HAVE TO GET HER OUT OF THERE



LOOK OUT!

DON'T SHOOT, DASH-!

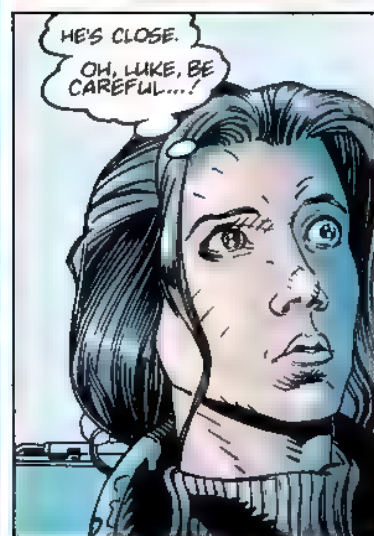
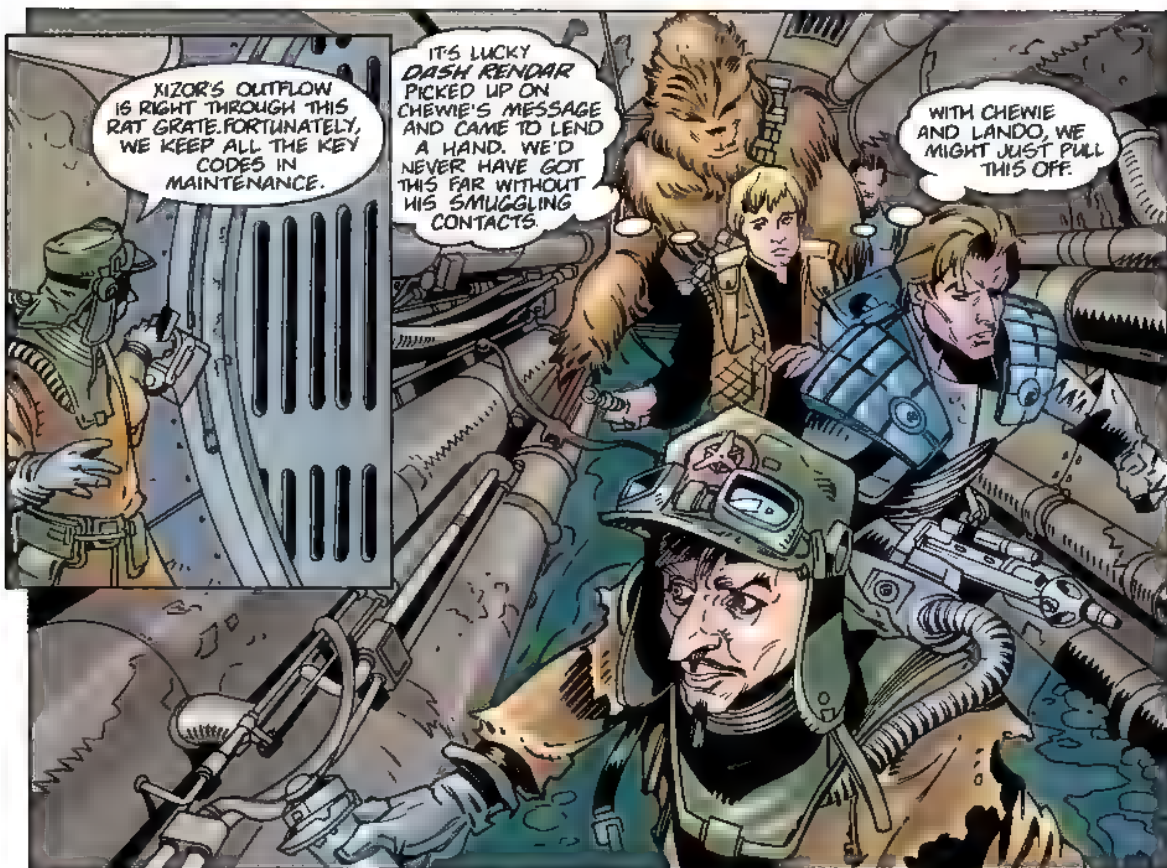


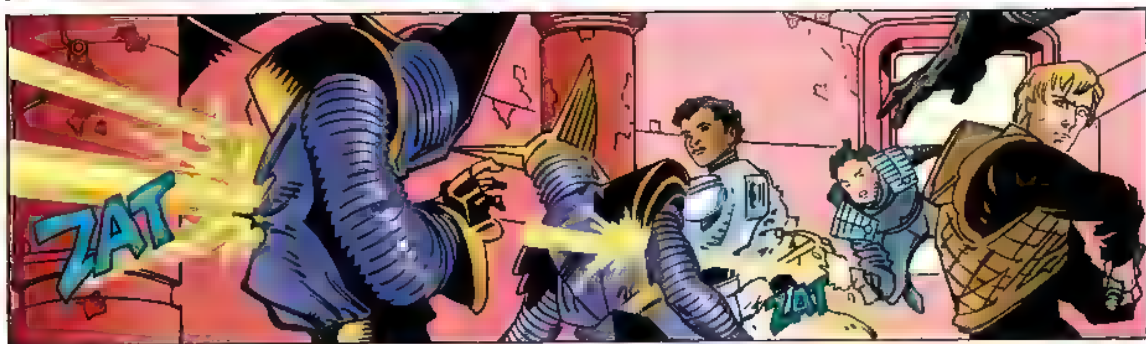
THE NOISE COULD GIVE US AWAY!

DIANOGA. I RAN INTO ONE BEFORE, IN A TRASH COMPACTOR IT NEARLY GOT ME.

YOU SPEND A LOT OF TIME IN PLACES LIKE THIS?

NOT IF I CAN HELP IT.





A FREIGHTER ANSWERING THE DESCRIPTION OF THE **MILLENNIUM FALCON** IS REPORTED HIDDEN IN THE HASAMADHI WAREHOUSE DISTRICT, PRINCE XIZOR OUR AGENTS ARE SEARCHING FOR IT.

AND THERE SEEMS TO BE A PROBLEM IN THE SUB-SUBBASEMENT. THE GUARDS ARE NOT ANSWERING.

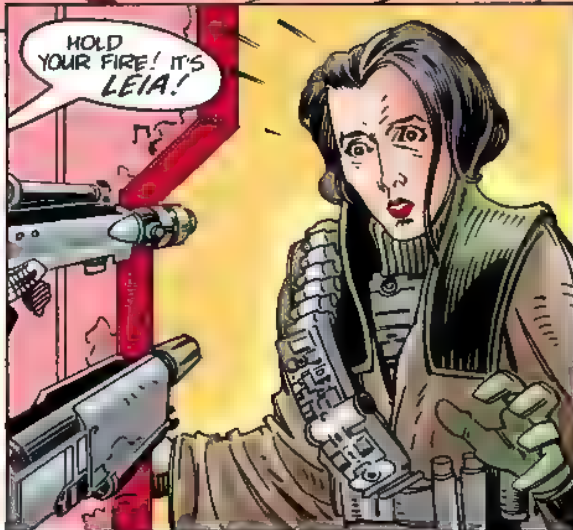
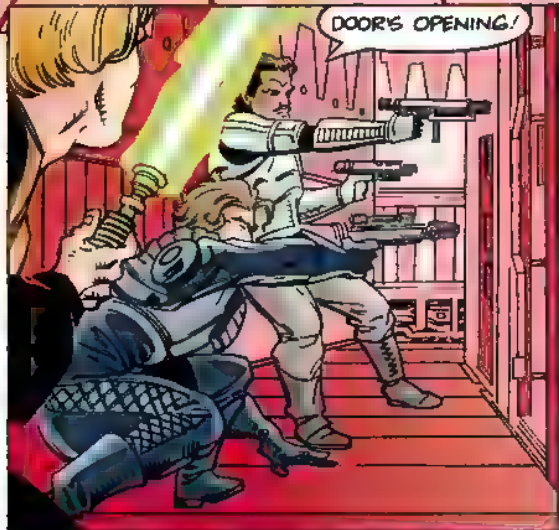
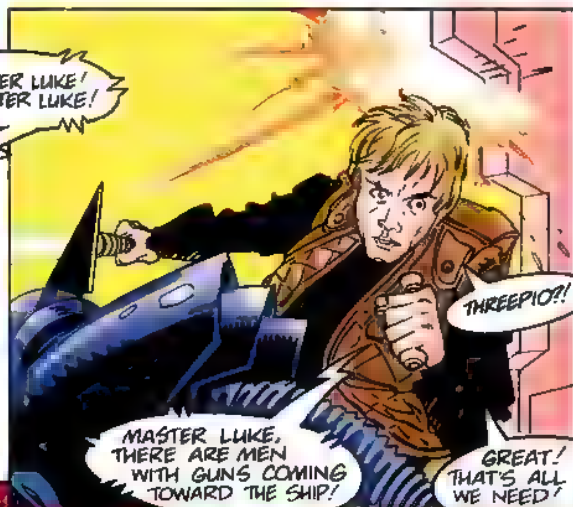
A COMMUNICATIONS FAILURE, PERHAPS...

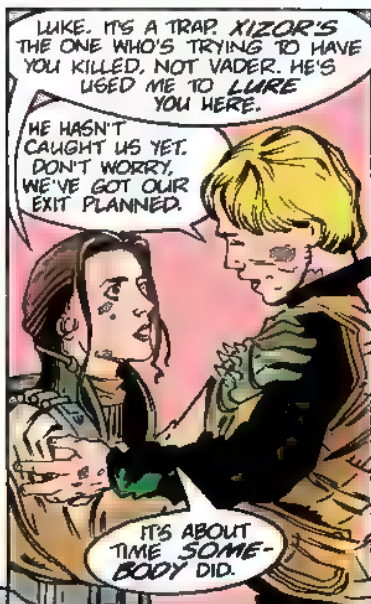
EITHER THAT... OR **SKYWALKER** HAS TAKEN THE BAIT-- COME TO RESCUE HIS PRINCESS. I DID NOT EXPECT HIM SO SOON, BUT SO MUCH THE BETTER. **VADER** WILL LOOK MORE THE FOOL HAVING HIM KILLED RIGHT UNDER HIS NOSE

SEND A UNIT TO CHECK ON THE GUARDS, GURI.

"THEN GO FETCH PRINCESS LEIA. BRING HER TO MY STRONG ROOM."

WHUNK!





LUKE, IT'S A TRAP. XIZOR'S THE ONE WHO'S TRYING TO HAVE YOU KILLED, NOT VADER. HE'S USED ME TO LURE YOU HERE.

HE HASN'T CAUGHT US YET. DON'T WORRY, WE'VE GOT OUR EXIT PLANNED.

IT'S ABOUT TIME SOMEBODY DID.

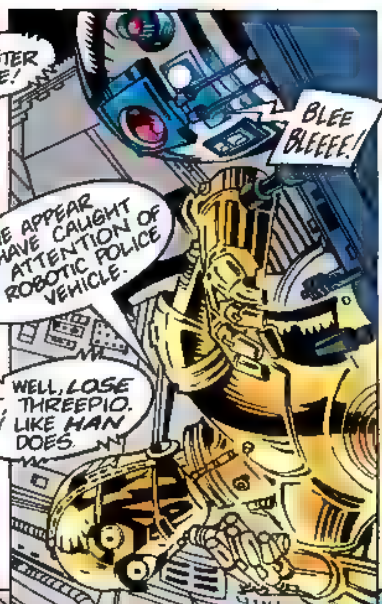


THEY'LL BE LOOKING FOR US TO COME OUT AT GROUND LEVEL, SO WE KEEP GOING UP. THERE'S A LANDING PAD ON LEVEL FIFTY.

MASTER LUKE!

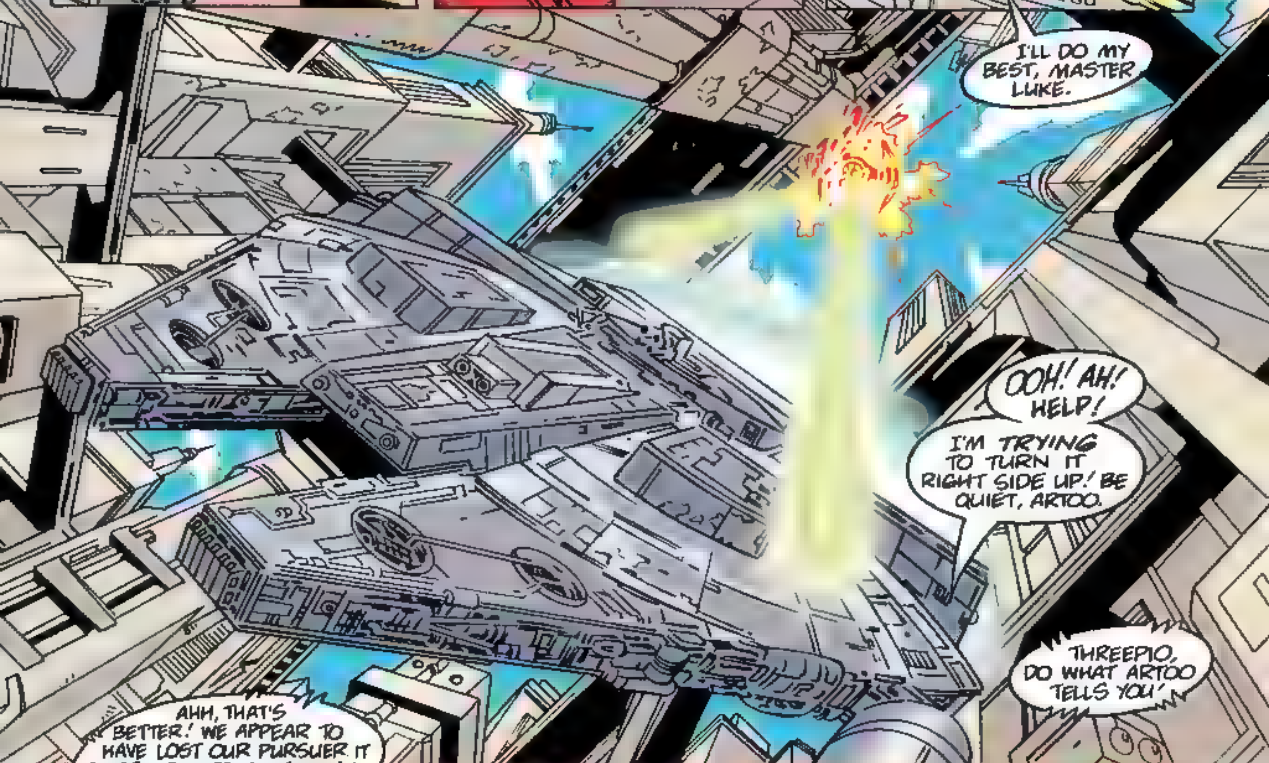
WE APPEAR TO HAVE CAUGHT THE ATTENTION OF A ROBOTIC POLICE VEHICLE.

WELL, LOSE IT, THREEPIO. FLY LIKE HAN DOES.



BLEE BLEE!

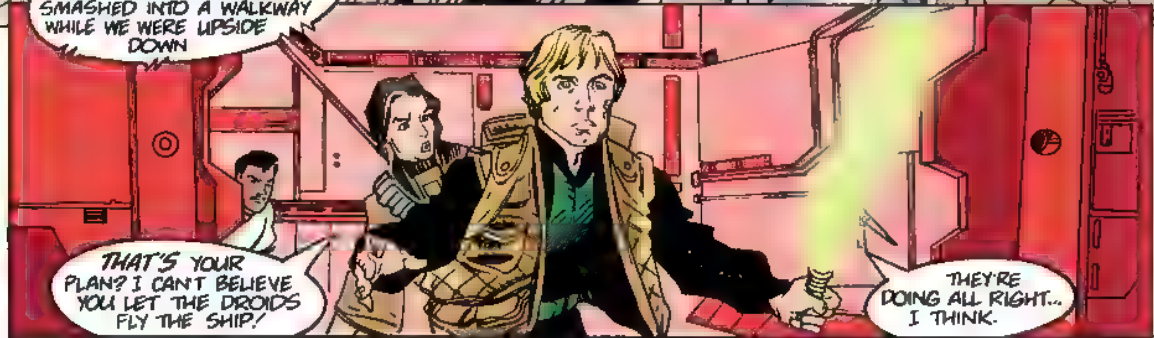
I'LL DO MY BEST, MASTER LUKE.



OOH! AH! HELP!

I'M TRYING TO TURN IT RIGHT SIDE UP! BE QUIET, ARTOO.

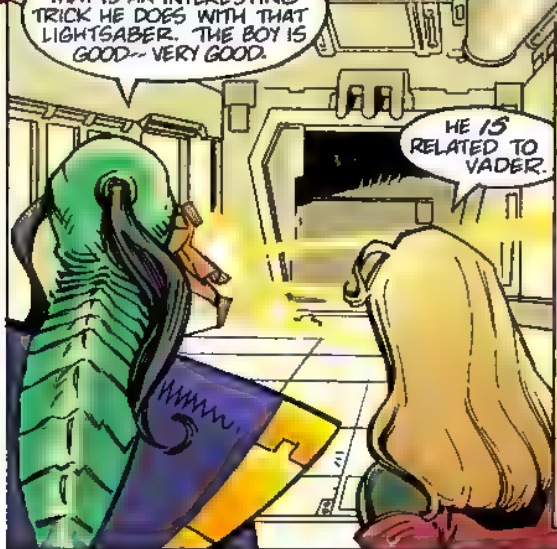
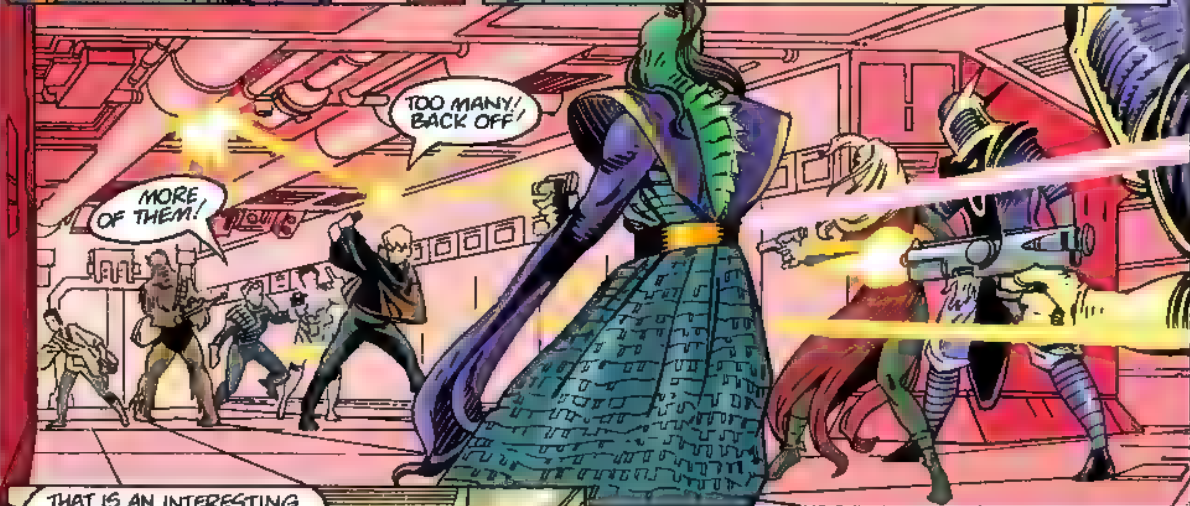
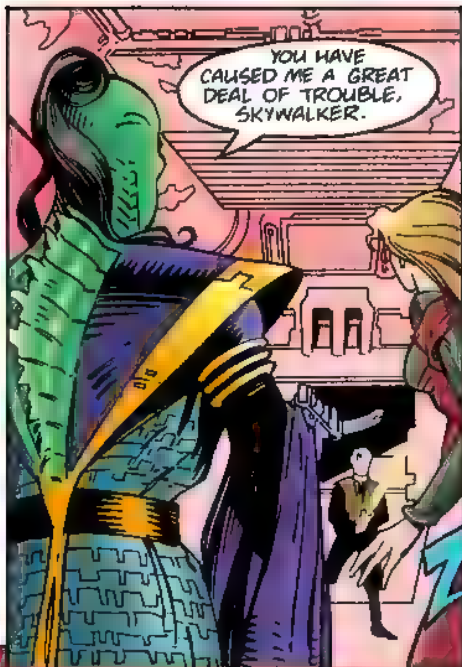
THREEPIO, DO WHAT ARTOO TELLS YOU!



AHH, THAT'S BETTER! WE APPEAR TO HAVE LOST OUR PURSUER IT SMASHED INTO A WALKWAY WHILE WE WERE UPSIDE DOWN

THAT'S YOUR PLAN? I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU LET THE DROIDS FLY THE SHIP!

THEY'RE DOING ALL RIGHT... I THINK.

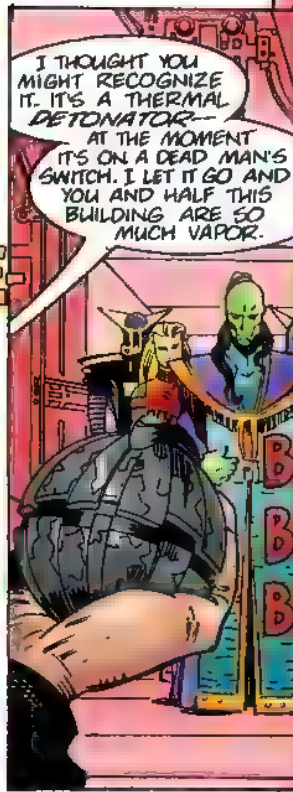




XIZOR! THERE'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD SEE!

BEE

HOLD YOUR FIRE!!



I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT RECOGNIZE IT. IT'S A THERMAL DETONATOR--

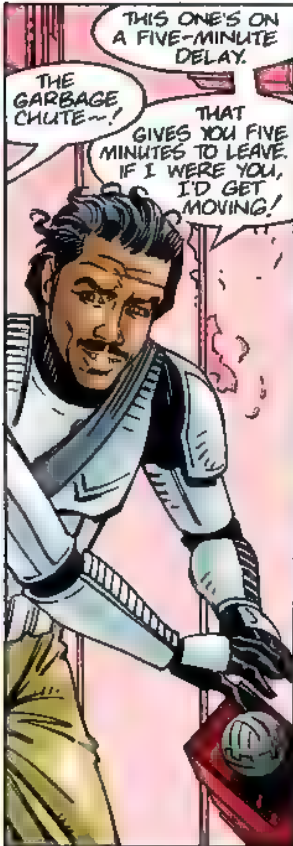
AT THE MOMENT IT'S ON A DEAD MAN'S SWITCH. I LET IT GO AND YOU AND HALF THIS BUILDING ARE SO MUCH VAPOR.

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

BUT IF YOU RELEASE THE DEVICE, YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS WILL DIE, TOO. WE HAVE A STANDOFF, SKYWALKER.



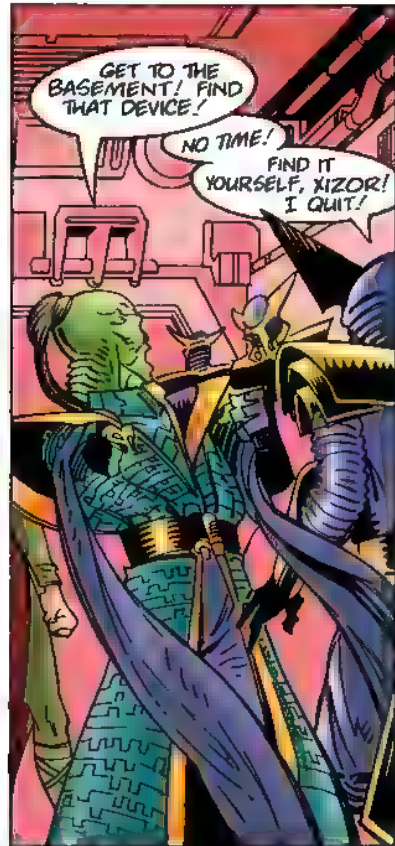
THAT'S WHY WE BROUGHT SOME EXTRA INSURANCE.



THIS ONE'S ON A FIVE-MINUTE DELAY.

THE GARBAGE CHUTE--!

THAT GIVES YOU FIVE MINUTES TO LEAVE. IF I WERE YOU, I'D GET MOVING!



GET TO THE BASEMENT! FIND THAT DEVICE!

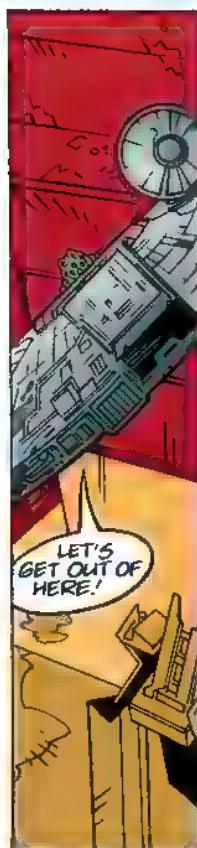
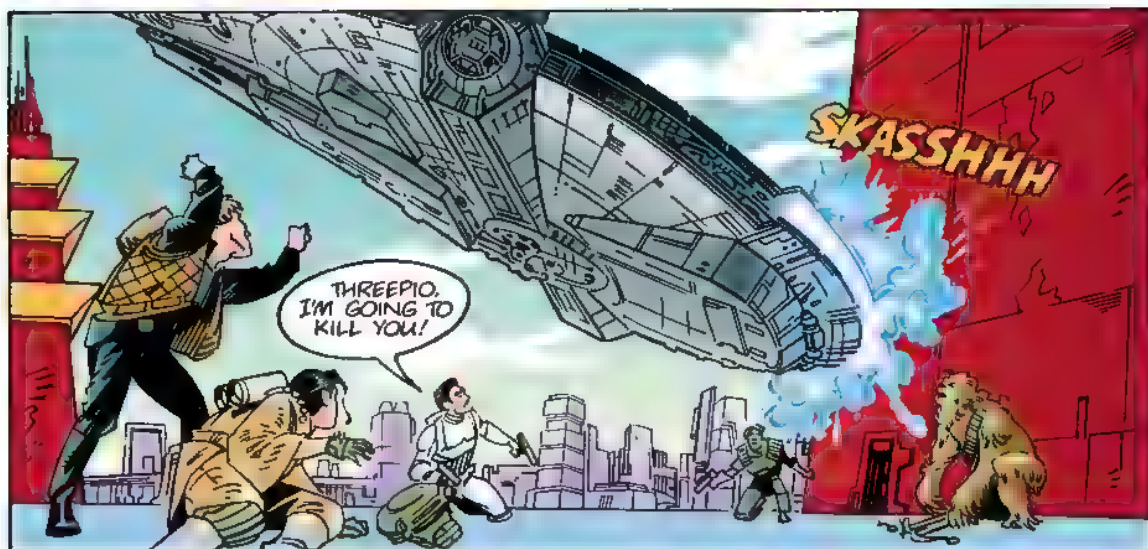
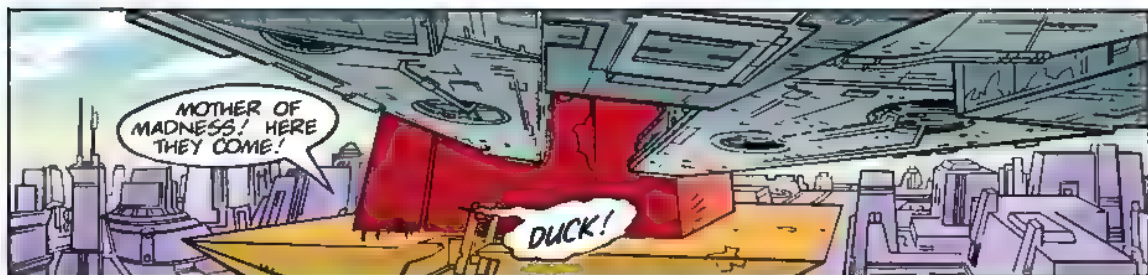
NO TIME!

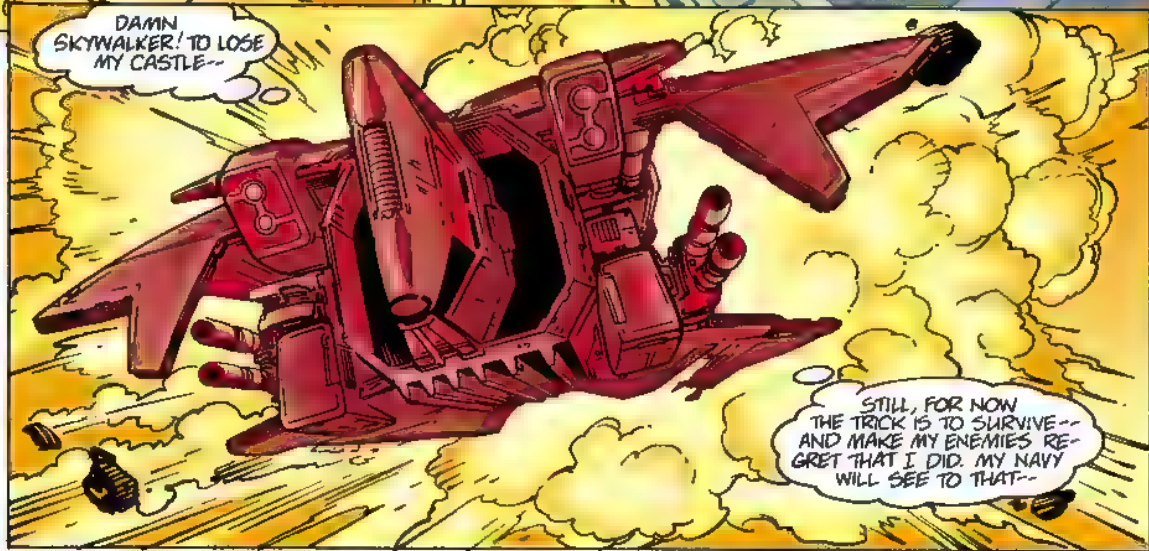
FIND IT YOURSELF, XIZOR! I QUIT!

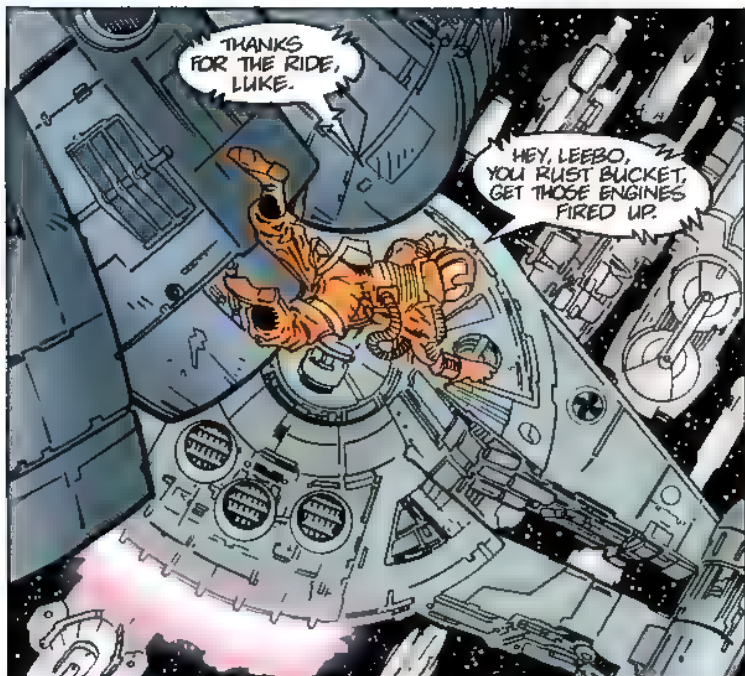


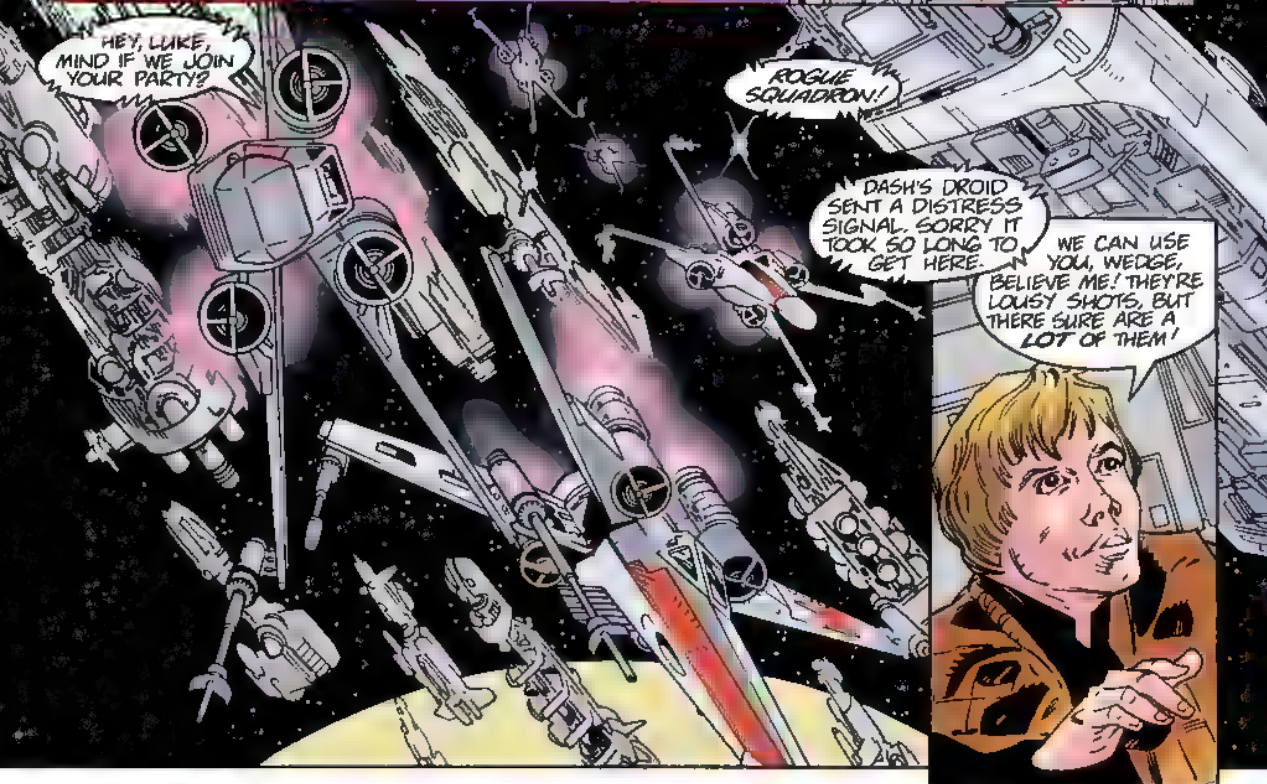
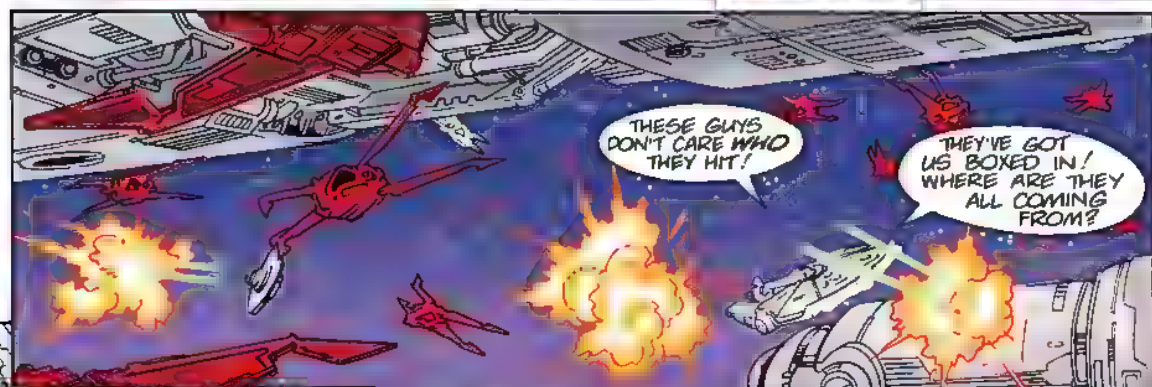
AMAZING WHAT A LITTLE PANIC WILL DO.


IT GIVES US FIVE MINUTES, TOO! IF THE FALCON'S NOT AT THE LANDING PAD, I'LL BE PANICKING!!









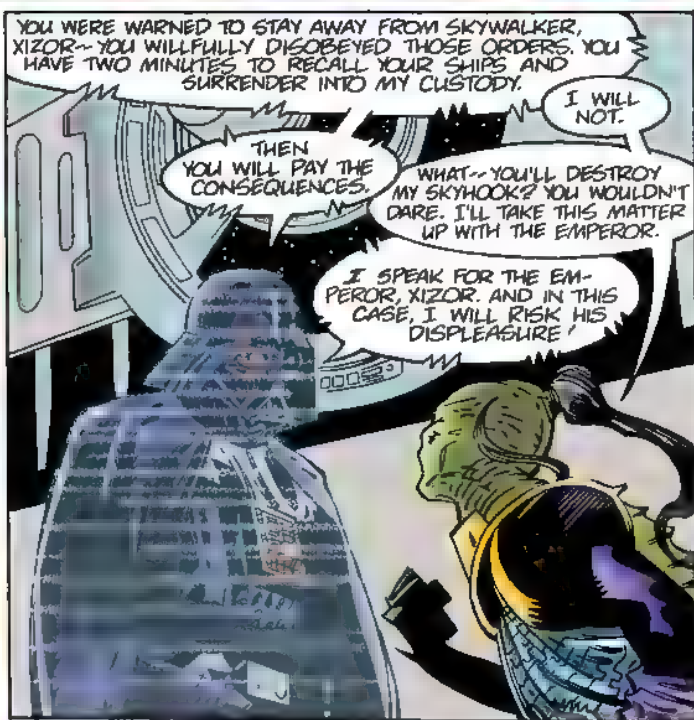
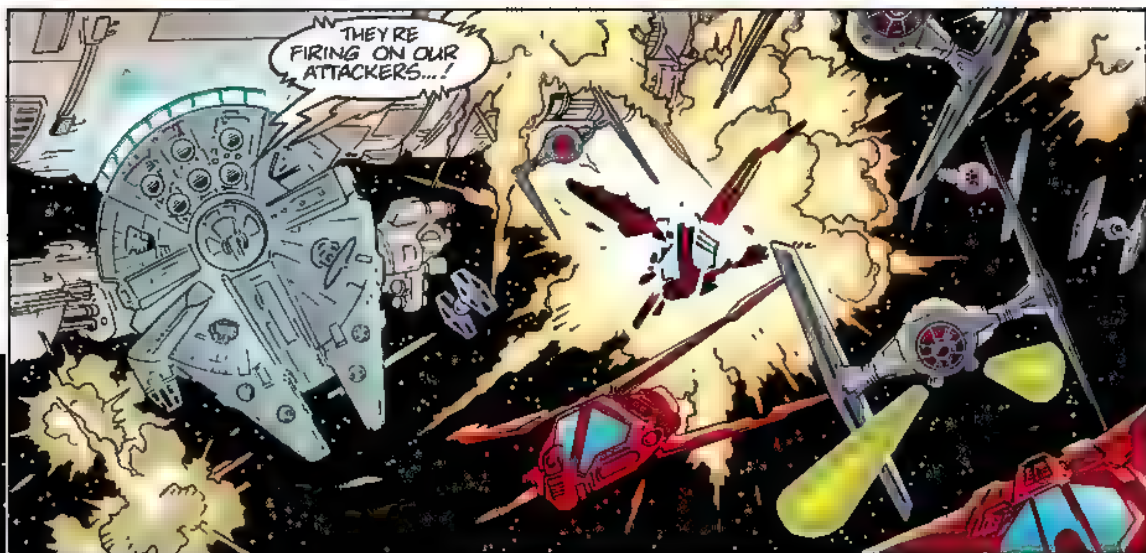


THEY'VE
GOT TO BE XIZOR'S
SHIPS!

WE GOT
TWO ROGUES
DOWN!

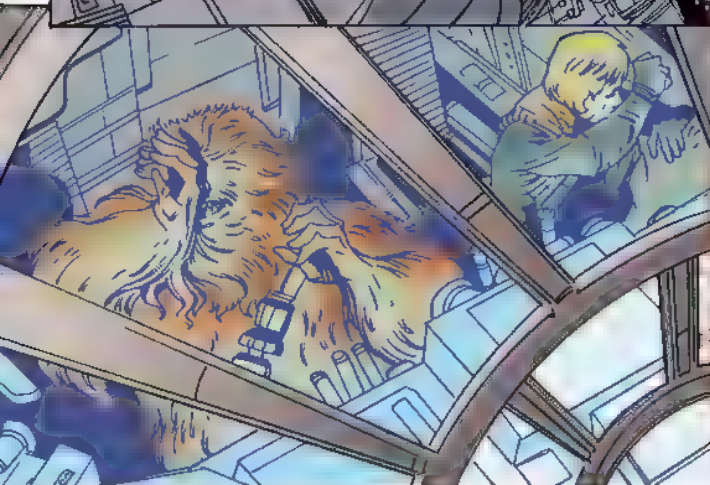
MORE BAD NEWS!
IMPERIAL TIE FIGHTERS
INWARD BOUND—A
DOZEN AT LEAST!

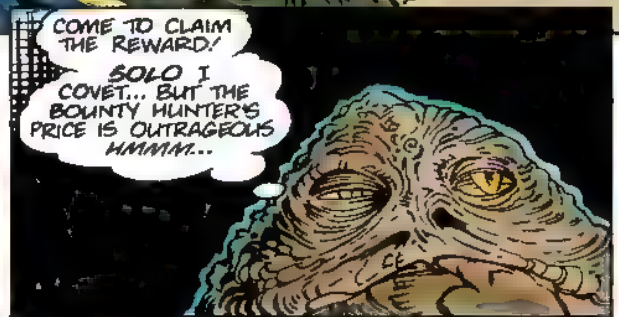
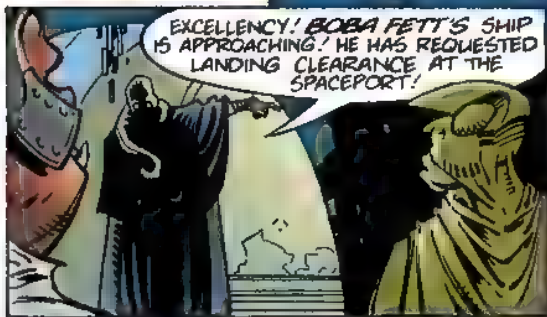
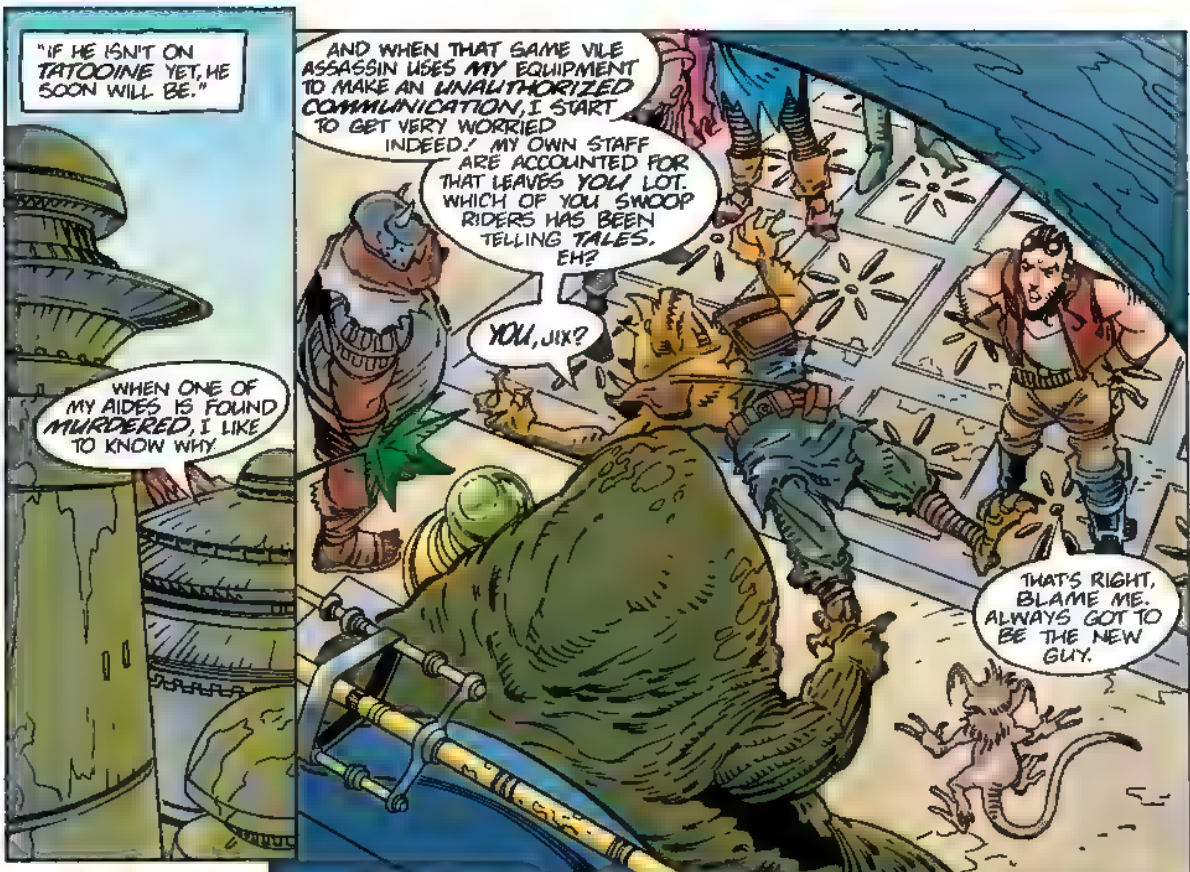
WONDERED
WHEN THEY'D SHOW
UP! LOOKS LIKE THIS
IS THE END.

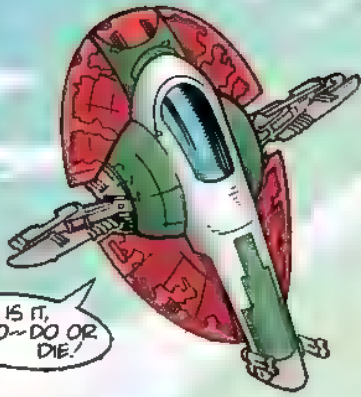


"DESTROY THE
SKYHOOK!"



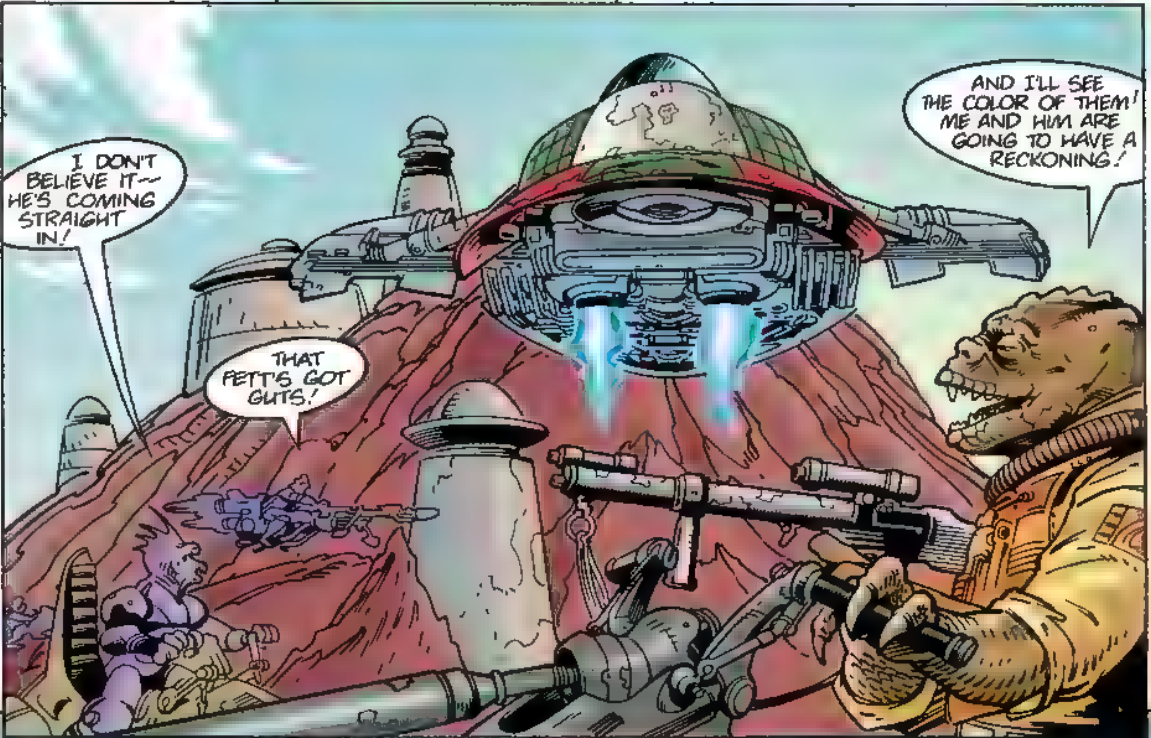






THIS IS IT,
SOLO--DO OR
DIE!

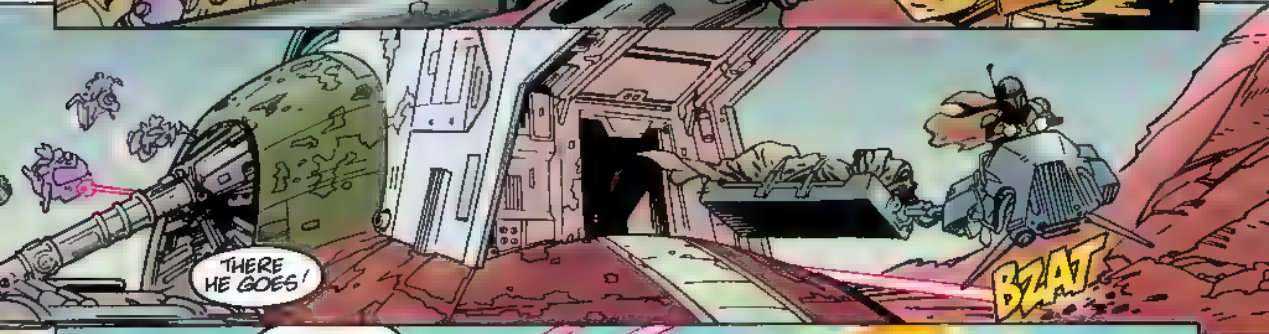
NOT FOR YOU!
I SUPPOSE. LIKE A
PESTILENCE, YOU'D SURVIVE
ANYTHING. BUT ME--
ONE BOLD
STROKE AND I'M
HOME--OR
DEAD.



I DON'T
BELIEVE IT--
HE'S COMING
STRAIGHT
IN!

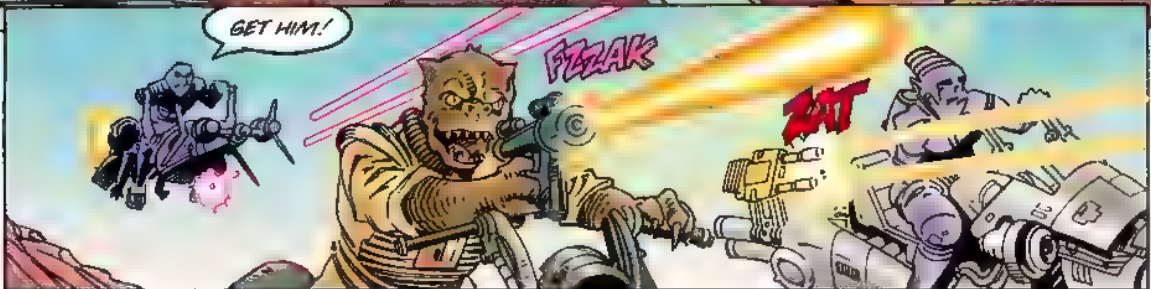
THAT
PETT'S GOT
GUTS!

AND I'LL SEE
THE COLOR OF THEM!
ME AND HIM ARE
GOING TO HAVE A
RECKONING!



THERE
HE GOES!

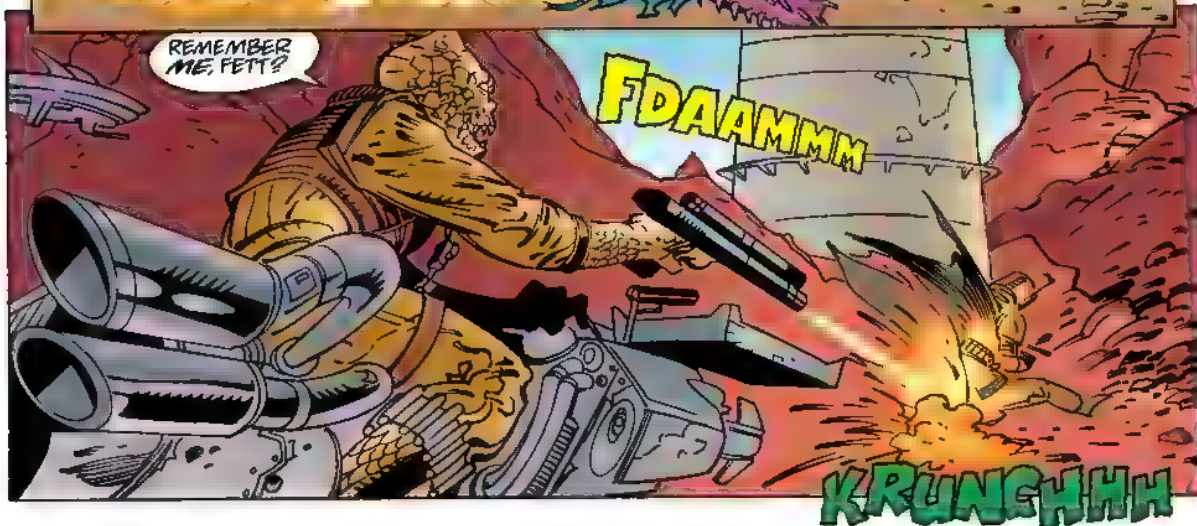
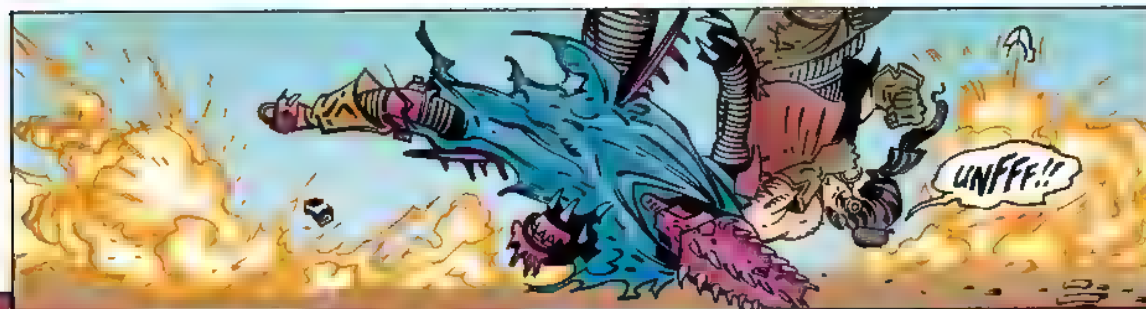
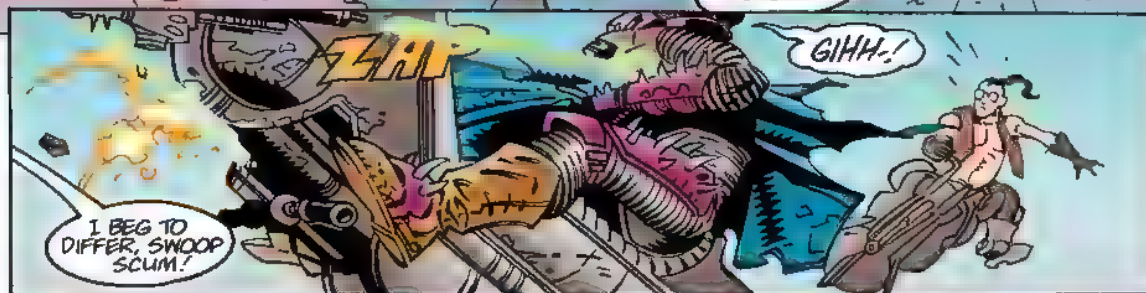
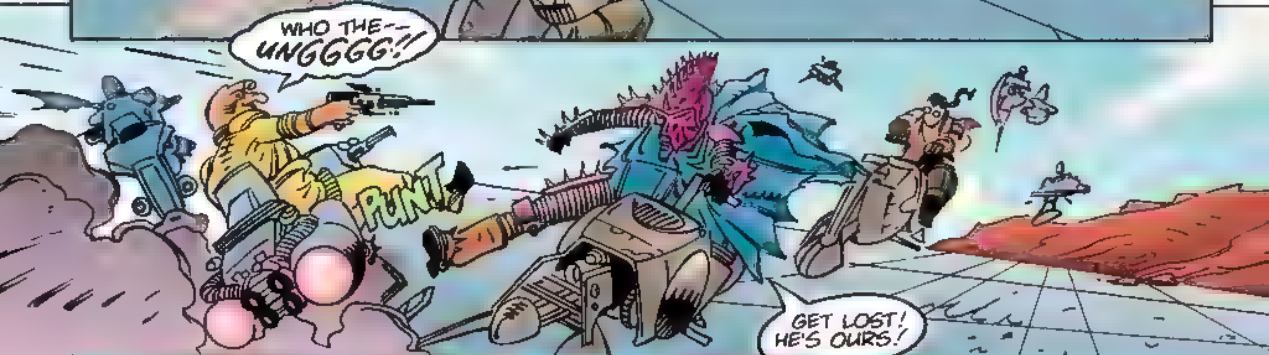
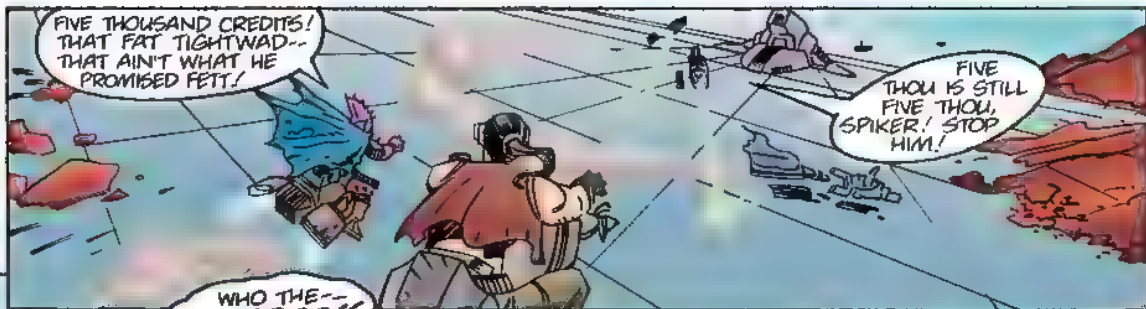
BZAT

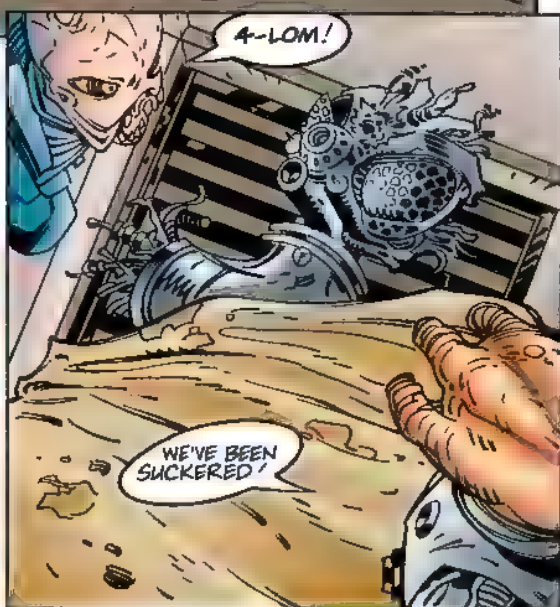


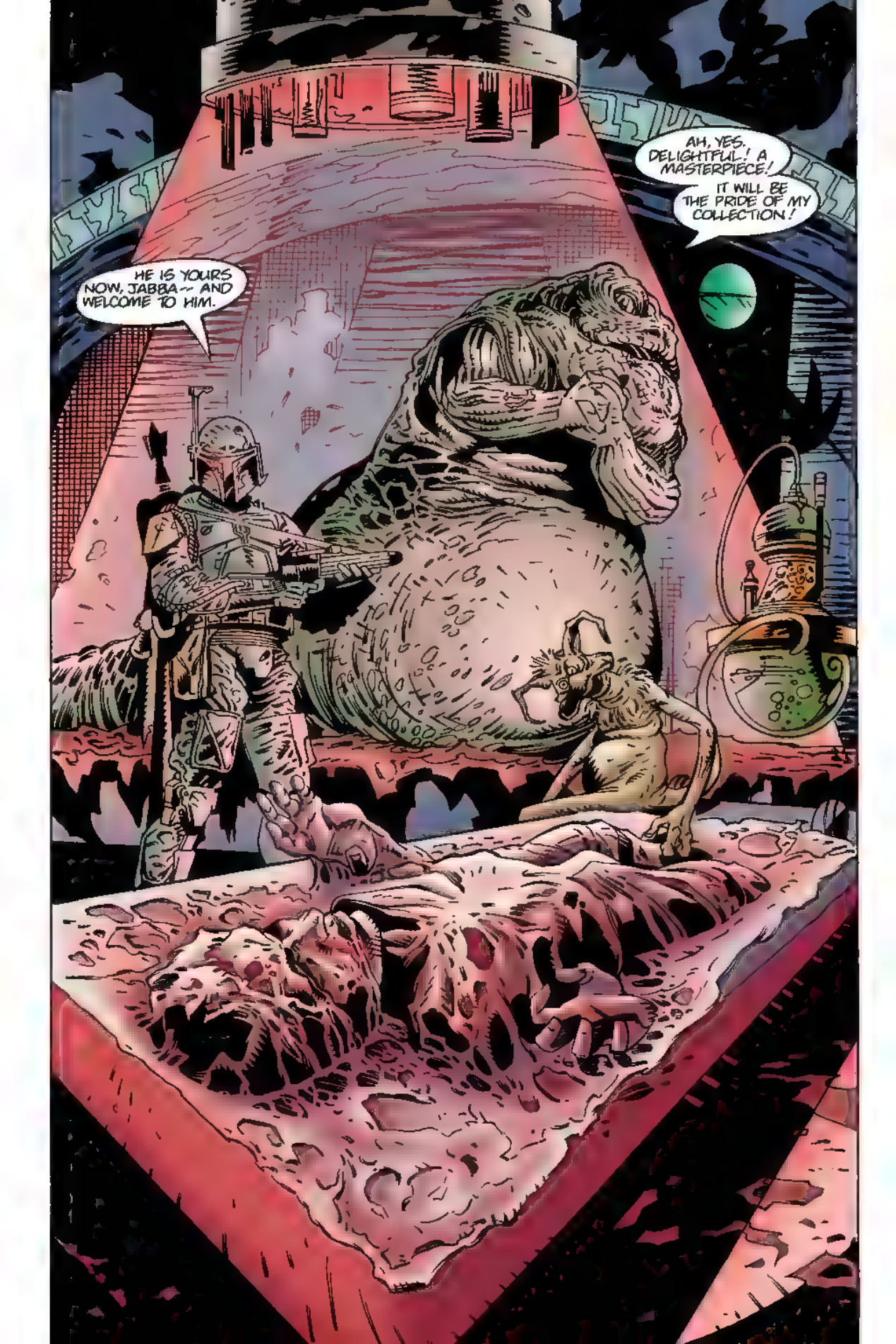
GET HIM!

PZZAK

ZAT



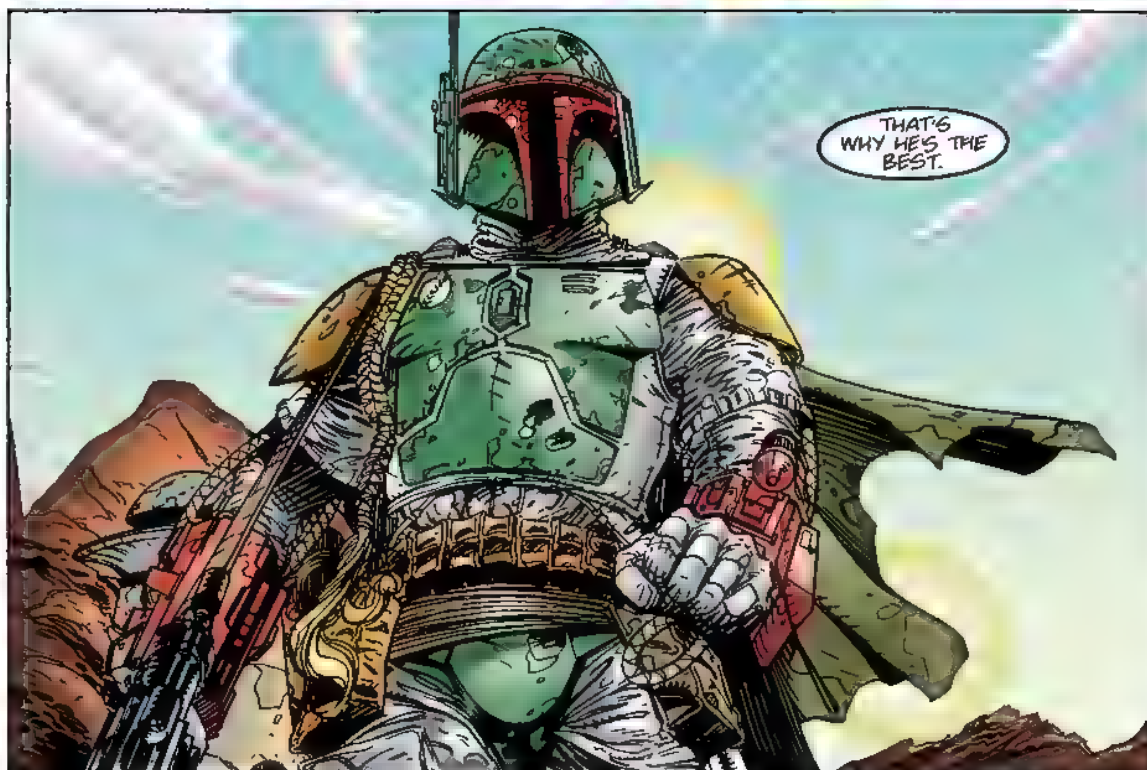
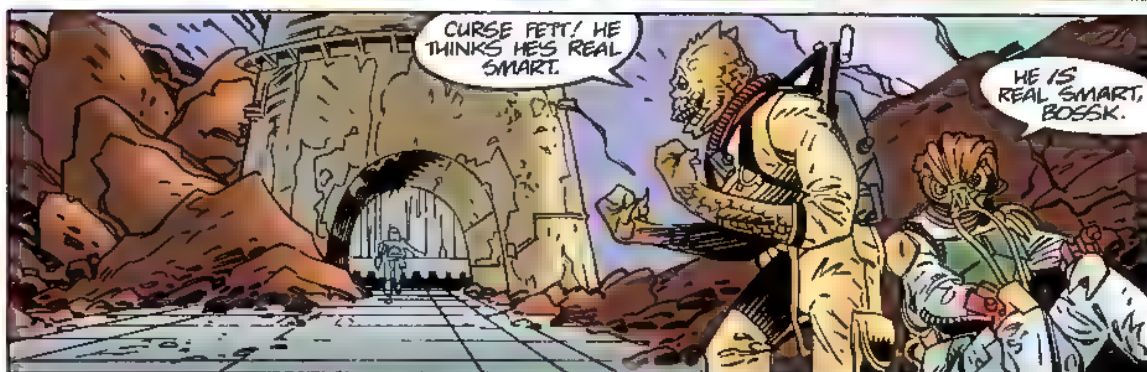




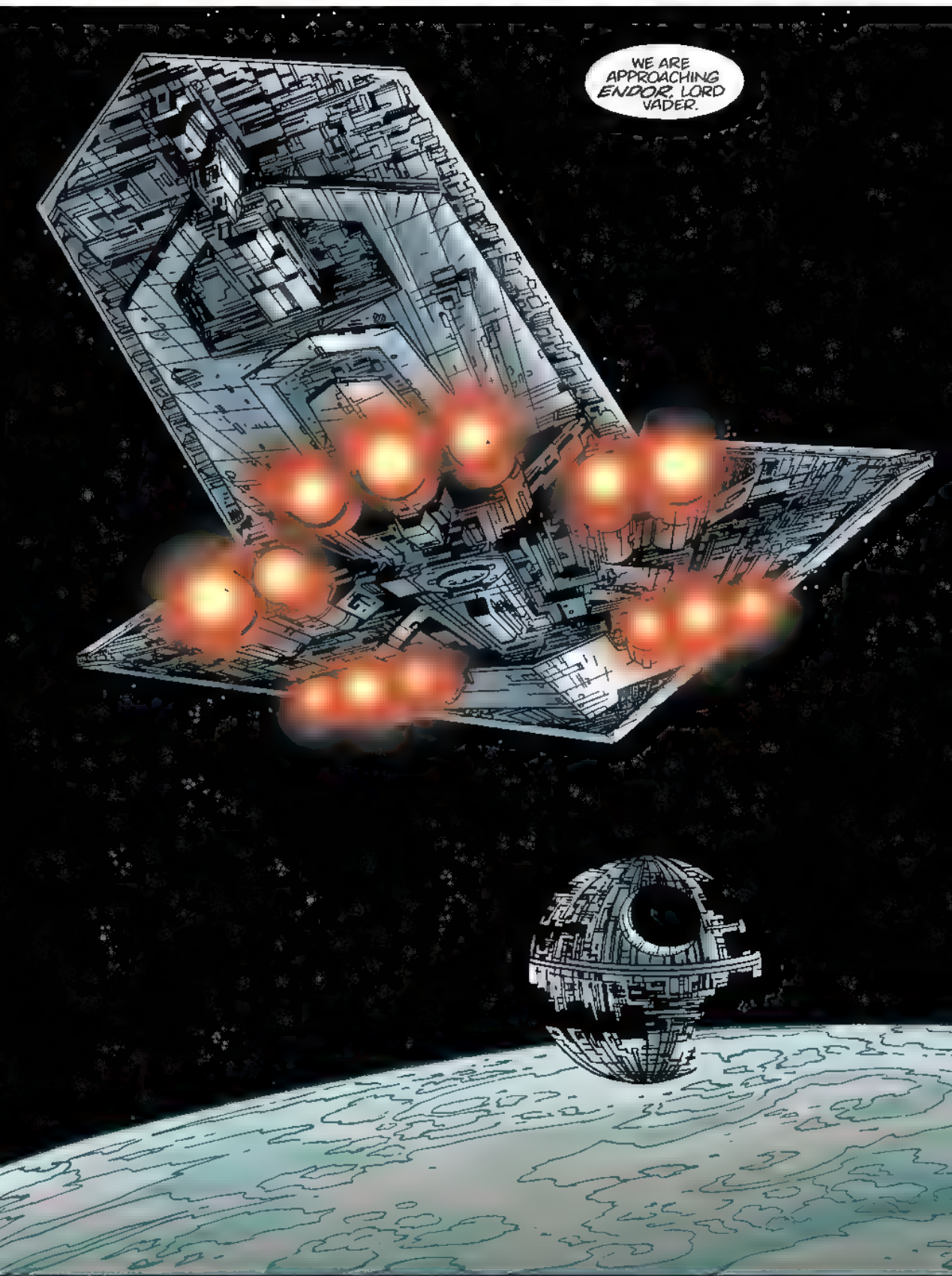
HE IS YOURS
NOW, JABBA-- AND
WELCOME TO HIM.

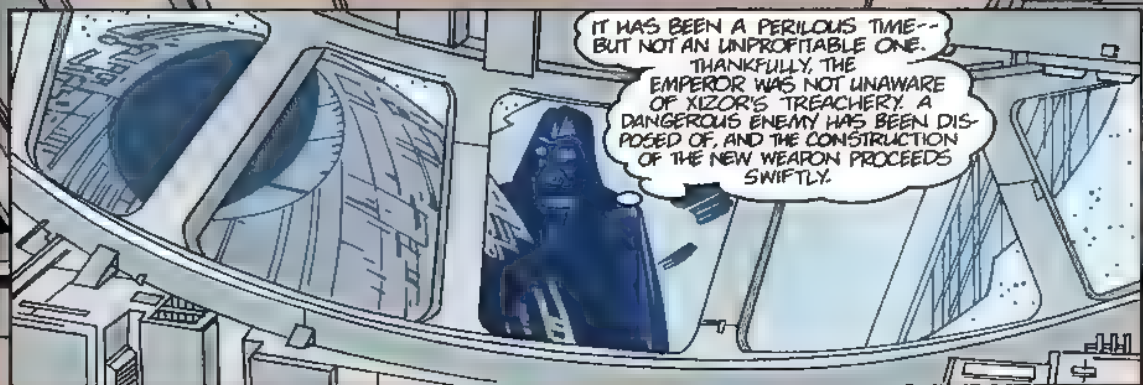
AH, YES.
DELIGHTFUL! A
MASTERPIECE!

IT WILL BE
THE PRIDE OF MY
COLLECTION!



WE ARE
APPROACHING
ENDOR, LORD
VADER.





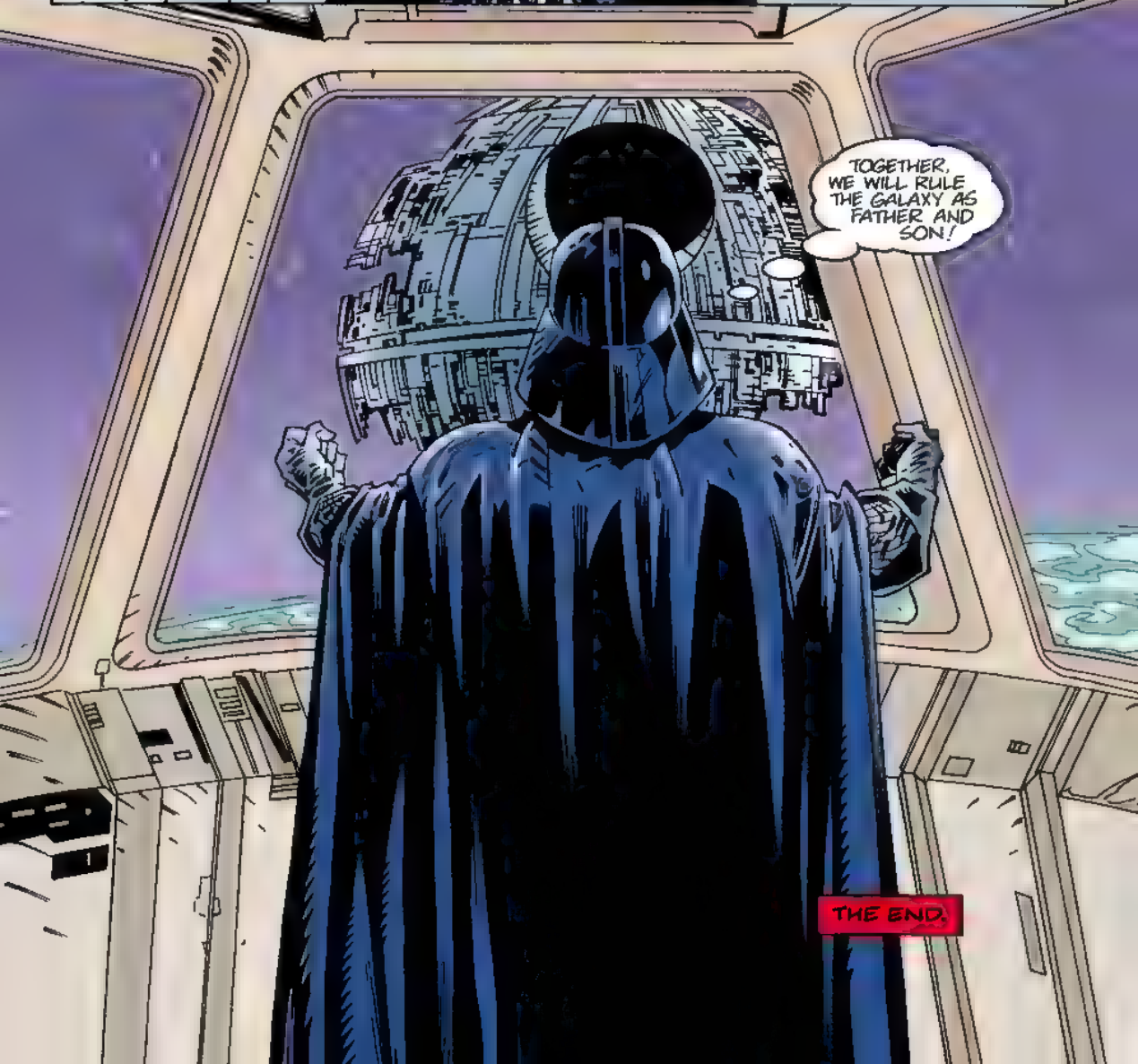
IT HAS BEEN A PERILOUS TIME--
BUT NOT AN UNPROFITABLE ONE.

THANKFULLY, THE
EMPEROR WAS NOT UNAWARE
OF XIZOR'S TREACHERY. A
DANGEROUS ENEMY HAS BEEN DIS-
POSED OF, AND THE CONSTRUCTION
OF THE NEW WEAPON PROCEEDS
SWIFTLY.



TRUE, LUKE SKYWALKER
HAS EVADED ME AGAIN,
BUT HIS CAPTURE CAN
ONLY BE A MATTER
OF TIME.

HIS POWER IS GROWING RAPIDLY.
HE WILL BE THE GREATEST OF US
ALL-- AND I WILL HELP HIM, GUIDE
HIM TO THE DARK SIDE. NONE
WILL BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST US.



TOGETHER,
WE WILL RULE
THE GALAXY AS
FATHER AND
SON!

THE END.

STAR WARS SHADOWS OF THE EMPIRE

GALLERY

These sketches were taken from Kilian Plunkett's grade-school exercise book. After Kilian viewed *Star Wars*, his studies obviously played second fiddle to his fantasizing and doodling about the film. Following the sketches, check out Hugh Fleming's smooth covers from the series.

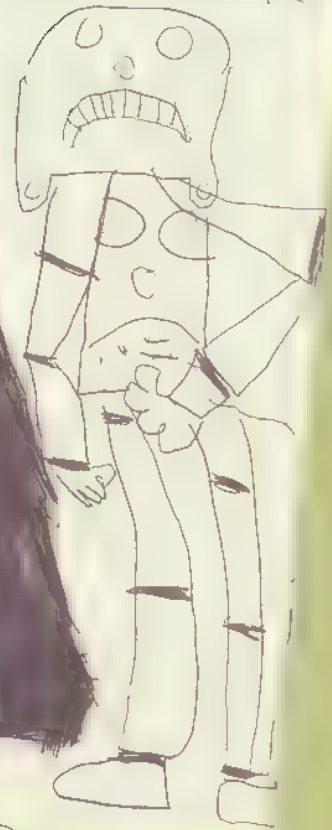




Darth
Vader



Stonewall



1991

1991















Hugh
Fleming
'96

After *The Empire Strikes Back* and before *Return of the Jedi*, there was a time when heroes and villains alike lived in the . . .

STAR WARS® SHADOWS OF THE EMPIRE™

As Princess Leia tries to foil Boba Fett's plan to deliver the carbonite-encased Han Solo to Jabba the Hutt, Darth Vader scour the galaxy for the young Rebel hero, Luke Skywalker. While Vader searches, another sinister figure emerges . . . Xizor, a cunning and ruthless leader of a powerful underworld crime syndicate who hopes to displace Vader as the Emperor's right hand. In the meantime, Xizor will join Vader in an unholy alliance seeking a common target. The struggle intensifies as Luke finds himself the potential prize of the two most evil entities in the galaxy — one who wants him alive, and one who wants him dead.

